China
TOURISM

JUNE 1994
167

NORTHERN XINJIANG

- An Autumn Visit to Kanas Lake
- The Nomadic Life of the Khazak
- The Changing Face of Urümqi
- A Journey on the Rim of Junggar Basin
- The Clear Blue Waters of Sayram Lake

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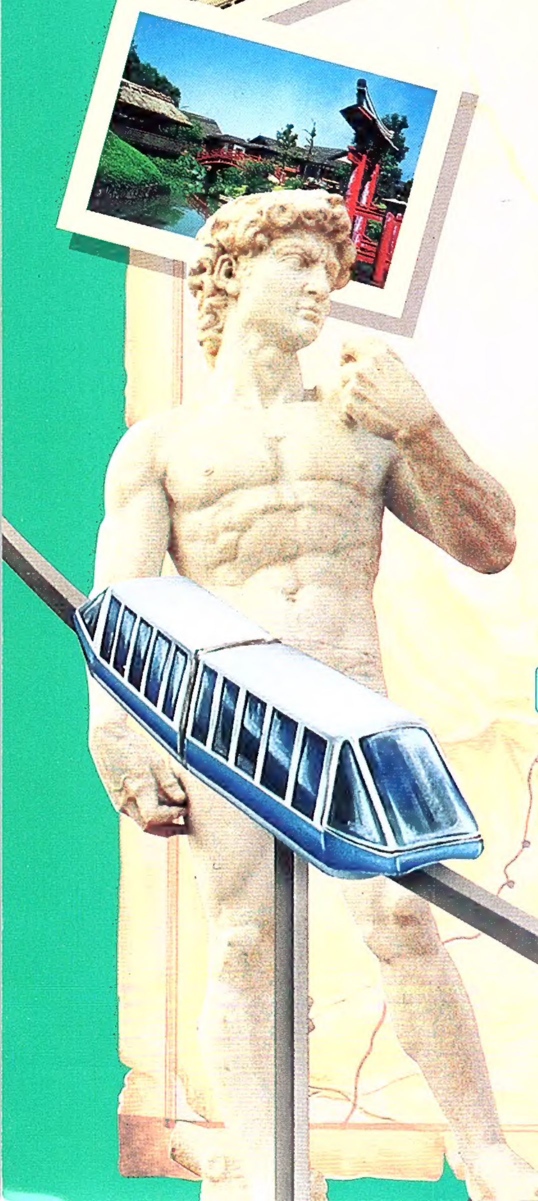

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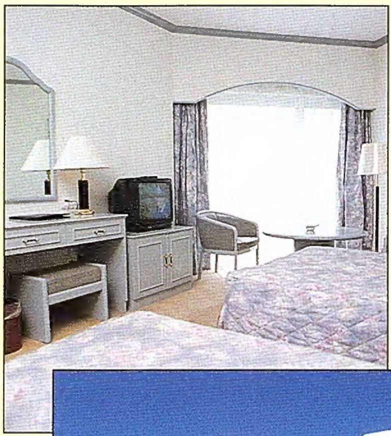

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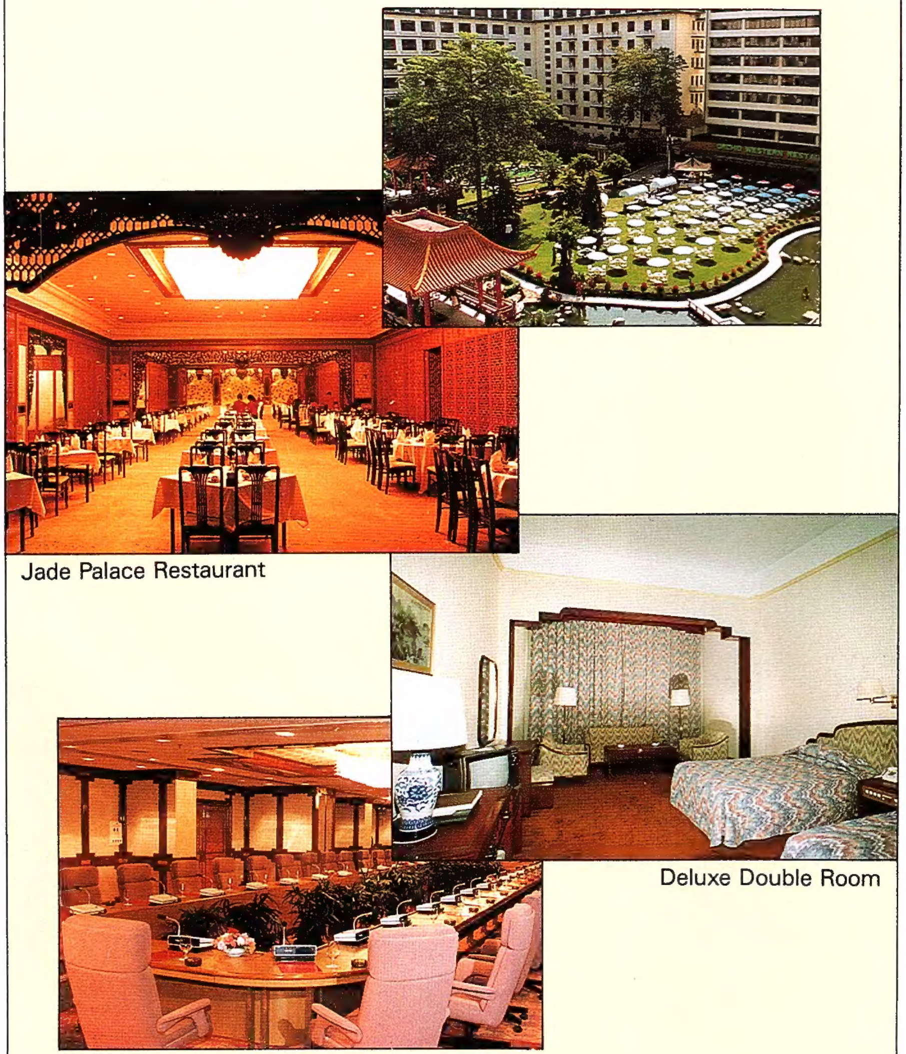

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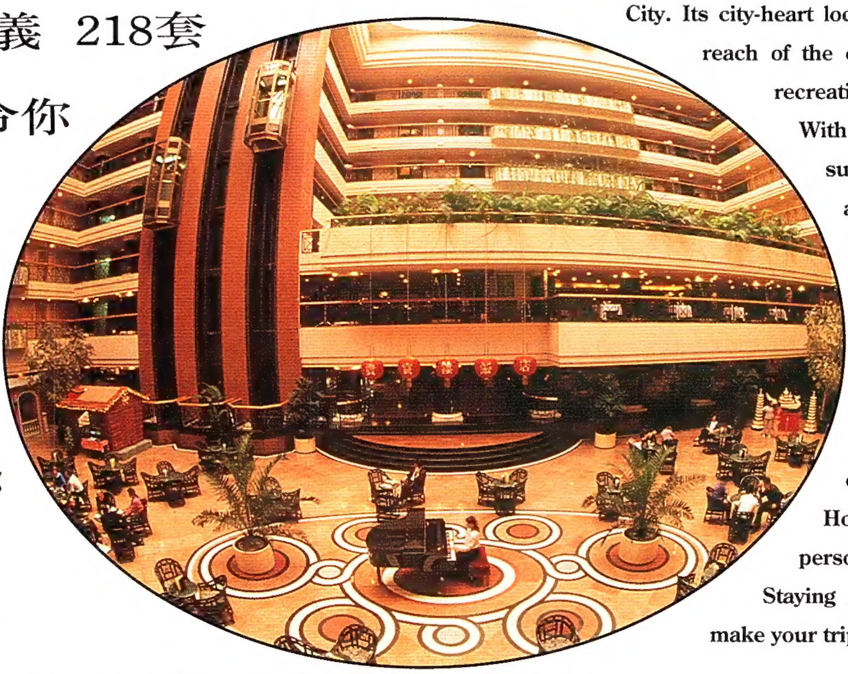

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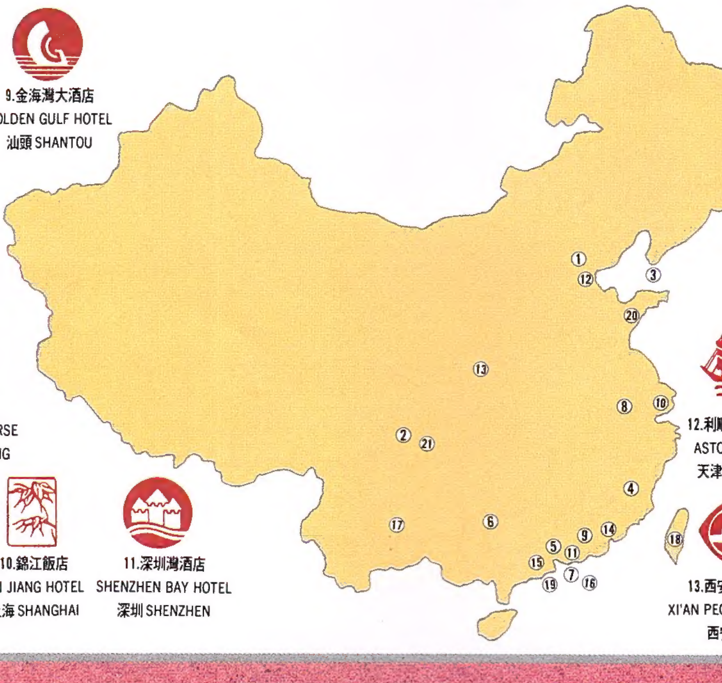

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—EDITORIAL—

In a Remote and Far-off Land

The last time *China Tourism* published a special issue on the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was over seven years ago, and needless to say, much has changed since then. As transportation to the region becomes more and more convenient, an increasing number of travellers are seeking to explore this vast land.

Xinjiang is a place full of mystery: a place of deserts, lost cities, camels and mirages, as well as glaciers, snow-covered mountains and lush grasslands. Sharing a border with India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikstan, Kirghizstan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Mongolia, it has always been a crossroads of various cultures, and for centuries a major section of the Silk Road ran through the region.

As Xinjiang is huge — larger than either Tibet or Inner Mongolia — it is impossible to cover all the places of interest in one issue, therefore this time we have chosen the northern half as our focus. The north is where the majority of habitations are located, including the capital city of Urümqi, which is right in its centre. Thus it is quite easy to use Urümqi as one's base and explore outwards from there in all directions.

For this issue we visited two lakes in the region, the beautiful Kanas and Sayram lakes, and made an exciting journey around the Junggar Basin. We spent time exploring the rapidly developing city of Urümqi and went to the border cities of Yining and Korgas to take a look at their thriving trade markets. We also have a feature article on the Khazak, one of the few remaining nomadic peoples in the entire world, and take a look at some unusual ancient fertility rock paintings near Urümqi.

Outside of Xinjiang, we pay a visit to a collector of Tibetan folk art in Lhasa and also have two articles on typically Chinese art forms: paper-cuts and marble carving.

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Front Cover: Uygur trunk sellers at a bazaar in Xinjiang *(by Chan Yat Nin)*

NORTHERN XINJIANG SPECIAL

An Autumn Visit to Kanas Lake 12

Article by Chan Yat Nin

Located at the foot of the Altay Mountains in the northernmost corner of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Kanas Lake is a world of brilliant and ever-changing colours. Our reporter visited in autumn, when the red and golden hues of the leaves added even more beauty to this unspoiled and remote region.

The Nomadic Life of the Khazak 22

Article by Chan Yat Nin

The Khazak people who live on the grasslands of Xinjiang are one of the world's few remaining nomadic tribes. They move according to the seasons in order to provide grazing for their herds of horses, cattle and sheep, often travelling over a thousand kilometres in one year. At night they set up yurts by the side of a lake or in a forest, leading a life that is truly in tune with nature.

The Changing Face of Urümqi 32

Photos by Chan Yat Nin/Article by Zhang Yongmei

Urümqi, the capital of Xinjiang, sits in the middle of the northern half of the autonomous region and serves as the cultural and economic centre for all of Xinjiang's many ethnic groups. Despite the modernizations that have taken place in recent decades, Urümqi has retained a unique and colourful character all its own.

A Journey on the Rim of the Junggar Basin 42

Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin

Junggar is the second largest basin in China and also contains the country's second largest desert, the Gurbantünggüt. Although there are few human habitations in the desert itself, there is still much to see there and in the other parts of the basin, including grasslands, nature reserves and a great deal of extraordinary scenery.

The Clear Blue Waters of Sayram Lake 56

Article by Tian Fu

Vast Sayram Lake is situated just north of Yining at an altitude of 2,073 metres. Due to the cold climate and high altitude, the lake is frozen over for half of the year, thus for millenia no fish or other life forms have lived in its crystal-clear waters. Surrounded by grasslands and snow-capped mountains, it is a popular place for nomads and tourists alike.

Trade at the Sino-Kazakhstani Border: A Visit to Korgas and Yining 60

Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin

The town of Korgas and the city of Yining sit on the western edge of Xinjiang, and throughout history have been known as important trading centres for merchants from Kazakhstan, Russia and other Eastern European countries. Today not only merchants but also travellers are passing through these frontier towns, adding to their prosperity and growth.

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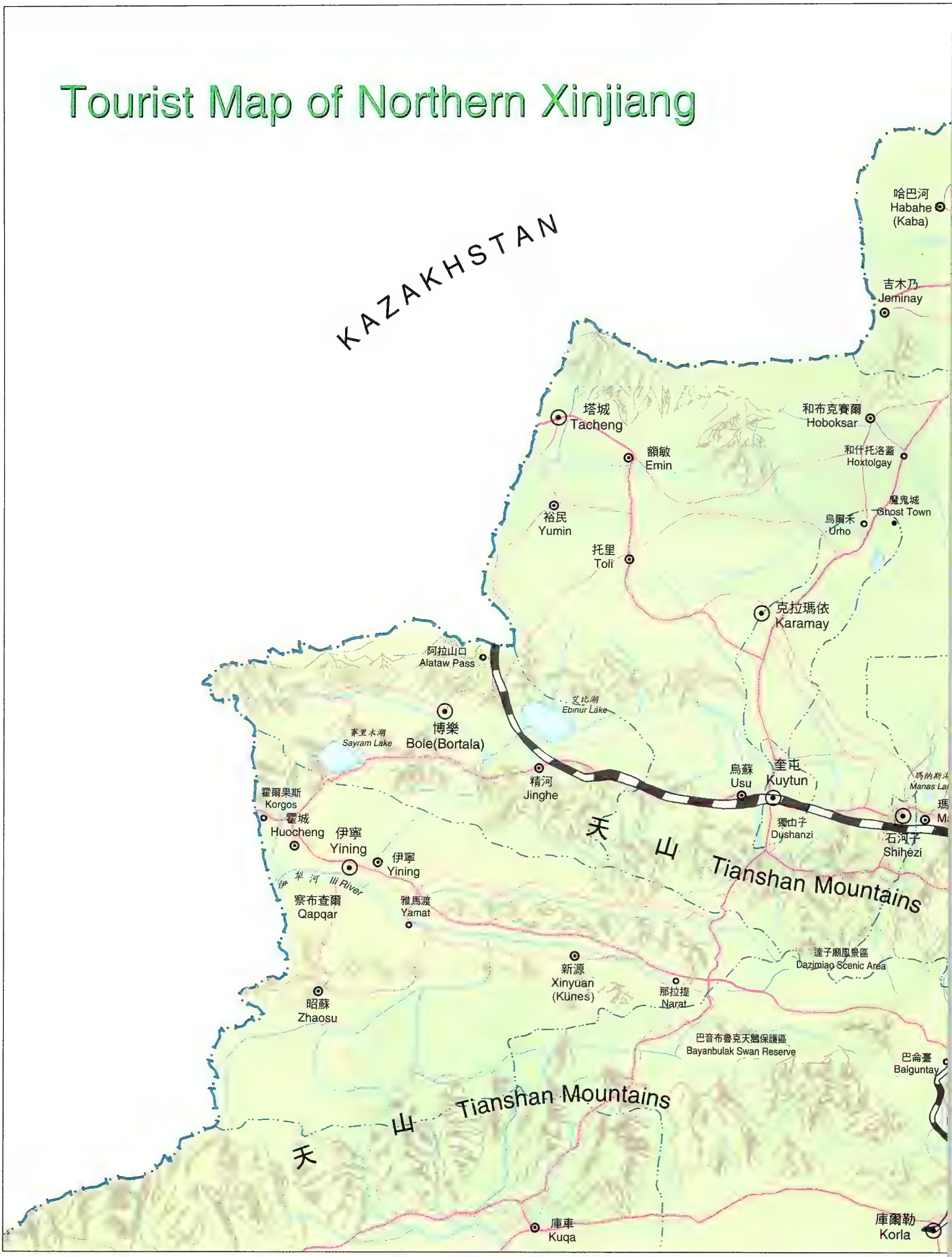
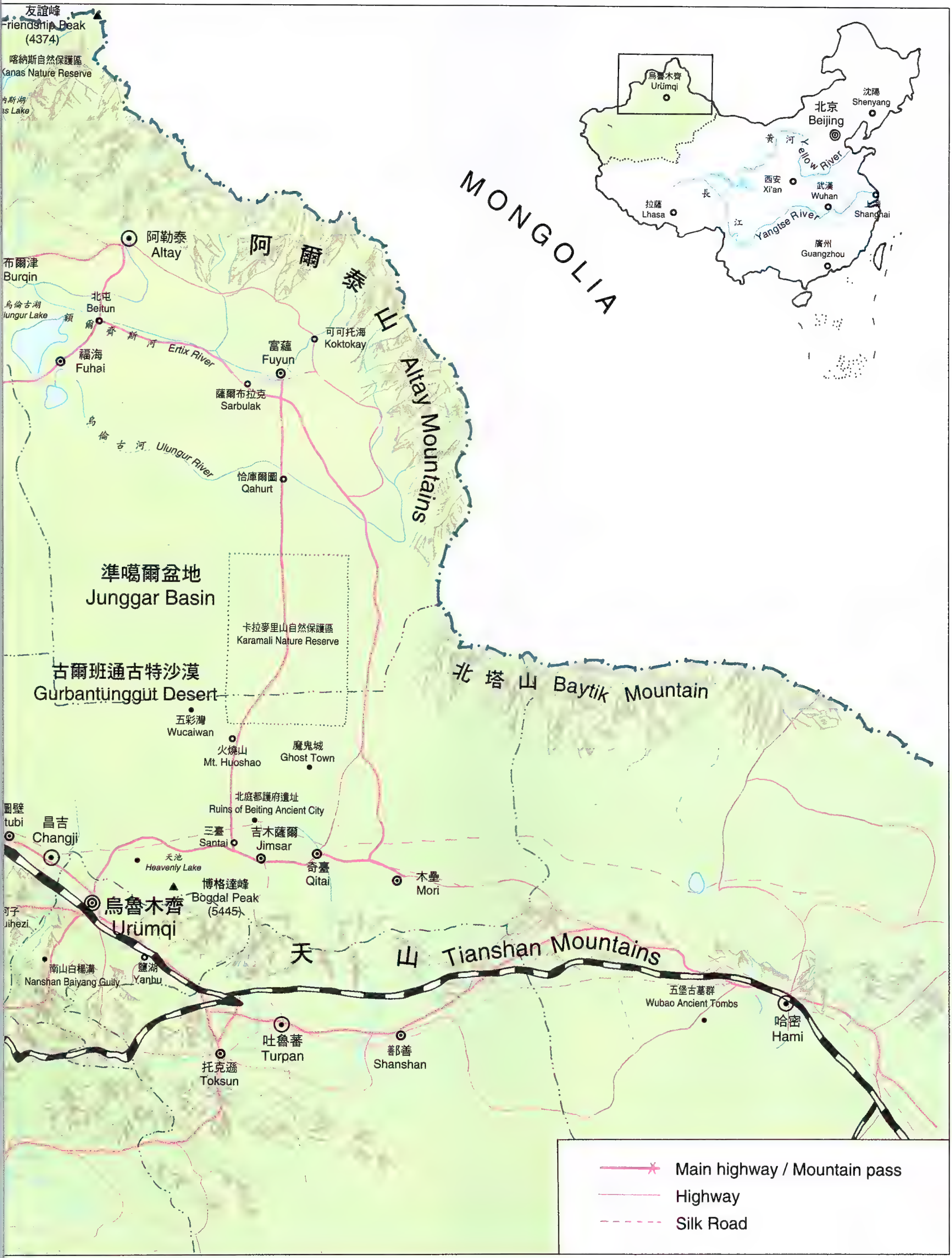
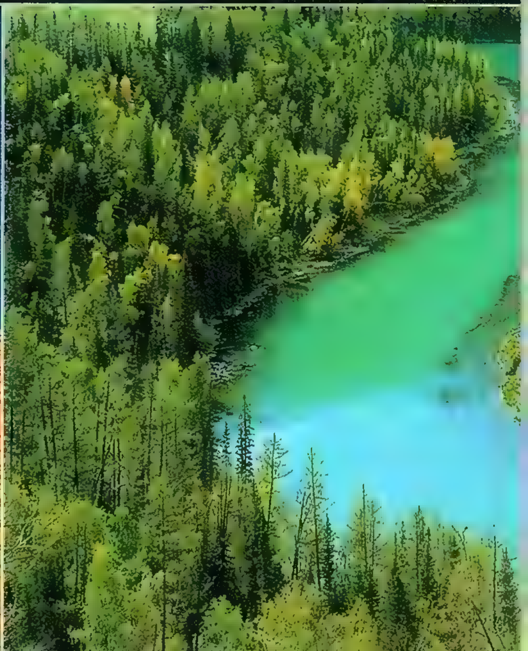
Tourist Map of Northern Xinjiang




友誼峰
Friendship Peak
(4374)
喀納斯自然保護區
Kanas Nature Reserve
阿勒泰
Altay
布爾津
Burqin
北屯
Beitun
烏倫古湖
Ulungur Lake
福海
Fuhai
額爾齊斯河 Ertix River
富蘊
Fuyun
可可托海
Koktokay
阿爾泰山
Altay Mountains
MONGOLIA
薩爾布拉克
Sarbulak
烏倫古河 Ulungur River
恰庫爾圖
Qahurt
準噶爾盆地
Junggar Basin
卡拉麥里山自然保護區
Karamali Nature Reserve
古爾班通古特沙漠
Gurbantunggut Desert
北塔山 Baytik Mountain
五彩灣
Wucaiwan
火燒山
Mt. Huoshao
魔鬼城
Ghost Town
北庭都護府遺址
Ruins of Beiting Ancient City
昌吉
Changji
三臺
Santai
吉木薩爾
Jimsar
奇臺
Qitai
木壘
Mori
天池
Heavenly Lake
博格達峰
Bogdal Peak
(5445)
烏魯木齊
Urümqi
天山 Tianshan Mountains
南山白楊溝
Nanshan Baiyang Gully
鹽湖
Yanhu
吐魯番
Turpan
托克遜
Toksun
鄯善
Shanshan
五堡古墓群
Wubao Ancient Tombs
哈密
Hami
烏魯木齊
Urümqi
北京
Beijing
沈陽
Shenyang
黄河 Yellow River
西安
Xi'an
武漢
Wuhan
上海
Shanghai
拉薩
Lhasa
長江 Yangtse River
廣州
Guangzhou
Main highway / Mountain pass
Highway
Silk Road

An Autumn Visit to Kanas Lake

ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN



The forests in the Altay Mountains, shrouded in the morning mist (1, by Song Shijing) ■ The dazzling colours of the Altay Mountains in autumn (2, by Sun Jiabin) ■ Kanas River is known for its extraordinary colours (3, by Cheng Xiaorong). ■ The primary colours of the mountain forests in autumn are golden yellow and fiery red (4, by Song Shijing).

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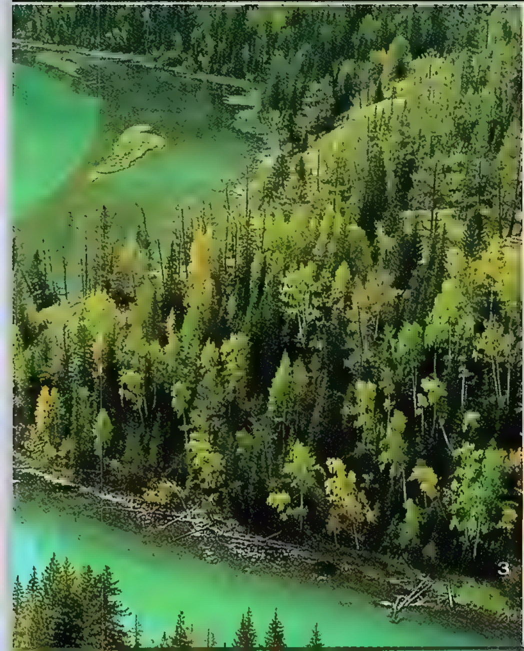

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The fiery red bushes of the grasslands along the Altay Mountains (1, by Chan Yat Nin). ■ *This primitive but clever way of making carpets was invented by the Mongolians in Kanas Village (2, by Chan Yat Nin).* ■ *Though young, the children in Baihaba Village already know how to drive ox carts (3, by Chan Yat Nin).* ■ *Baihaba Village, as beautiful as an oil painting (4, by Sun Jiabin)*

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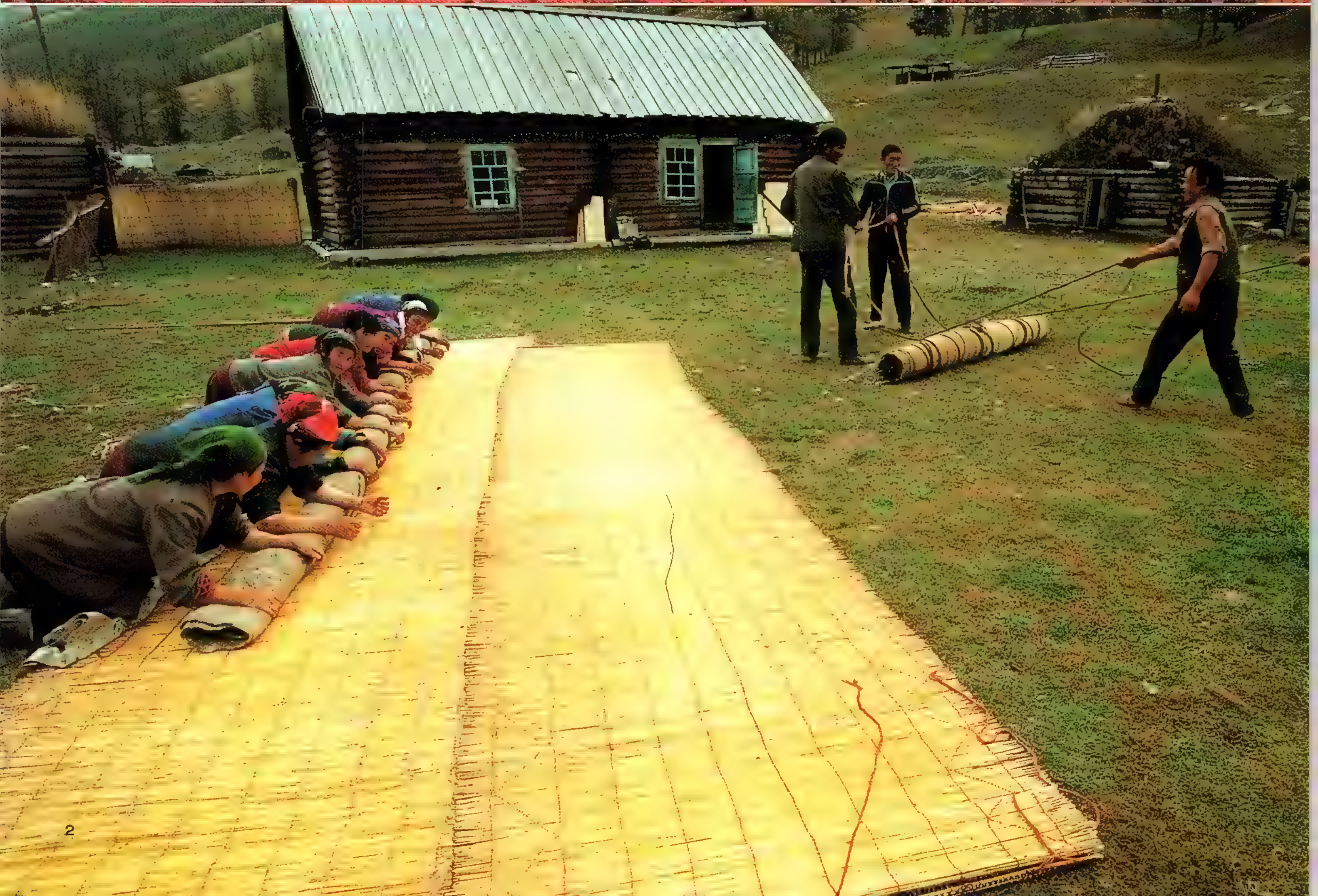
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It was the month of September when we made our trip to Kanas Lake, nestled at the end of the Altay Mountains in the most northern corner of Xinjiang. Altay means "golden mountain" in both the Turkic and Mongolian languages. Though the name came into being because the area was once known for its production of gold, nowadays we associate the name more with the beautiful scenery.

Our jeep had just crossed a slope at the edge of Ertix Valley when we suddenly came upon a large expanse of reddish-gold bushes and golden trees. I was overwhelmed by the sight, and immediately called the driver to stop the jeep. "There is much more to see, my friend. Save your time and film for later," my fellow travellers advised me, while laughing at my premature excitement.

The main purpose of our trip to the Altay Mountains was to visit Kanas Lake, which is a tiny dot on the mountain chain that straddles the border of Xinjiang and the Republic of Mongolia. The main part of the mountain is in Mongolia and its northwest wing extends further into the border areas of Russia and Kazakhstan. The southern slope of the middle section of the mountain stretches across five counties and one city in the Altay region of northernmost Xinjiang. This section is 800 kilometres long and 150 kilometres wide, gradually decreasing in altitude as it meanders southward.

The main peak of the Altay Mountain Range, called Youyi (Friendship) Peak, rises 4,374 metres and is crowned by snow all year round. To its southwest is Kanas Peak, and it is at the foot of this peak that we found Kanas Lake. The name Kanas means "beautiful and mysterious" in Turkic and Mongolian. The same name is also used to refer to the grasslands and forests of Hemu Kanas Town in Burqin County. In recent years, the Altay Kanas Nature Reserve has been established around the lake.

We did not go through Burqin County, but instead set off early one morning from the city of Altay and entered the mountains at noon in Habahe (Kaba) County. We did this for two reasons: First, the road here was in better condition than the one to Burqin, and second, we wanted to take this opportunity to visit the Khazak and Mongolian people living in the region. One fellow companion who had visited Kanas six times insisted that Tielieke and Baihaba villages in Habahe County, and Kanas Village in Burqin County, were places one should absolutely not miss.

There are actually many more places that one should not miss seeing. All along the way, we kept asking our driver to stop so we could get out and look around, oblivious to his warning that if we did not finish the 135 kilometres from Habahe to Kanas Lake, we would have to spend the night in the wild. When we reached Baihaba Village at its most beautiful moment, at sunset, we decided to stay there for the night.

A Union of Man and Nature

Baihaba was more beautiful than even the most perfect landscape painting. I wondered how man and nature could ever have combined to create such loveliness. The long valley with golden-coloured birch and poplar trees was dotted with simple wooden houses and encircled by a crystal-clear stream. Herdsmen were leisurely returning home with their flocks of sheep and cows. The dust stirred up by the animals sparked a rainbow of colours, drifting into the sheds which now echoed with the sounds of the animals. Smoke curling up from the houses turned a golden hue in the light of sunset.

The village is bounded to the north by a river that marks the Chinese border, and to the south by a mountain of dense forests. Here too nature was a riot of colours: green on the ground, then from the bottom up yellow, red and brown foliage, then finally the white of snow. Most of the villagers were Khazaks with quite pale complexions. The walls of their houses were built of thick logs and the pyramid-like roofs with planks. Some houses were crowned with logs covered with a layer of mud, on top of which grass was growing.

We noticed several families gathered in a circle around something which they were beating with sticks. Thinking they were playing some kind of game, we walked nearer and realized that they were beating wool. The method is primitive but easy; we even saw small children doing the job expertly.

After taking photos of the town the following morning, we set off from Baihaba for the village of Kanas. Although it was a mere 20 kilometres to the village, the trip proved most difficult. We had to navigate forests, marshlands, grasslands, rivers and gullies, which gave us a real feel for the primitive nature of this region. The only traces of human life were tyre tracks and fences.

I soon discovered, however, that these magnificent scenes could be very deceptive. The green grasslands, for example, may well turn out to be marshlands — pitfalls dreaded by drivers no matter how attractive they looked to the tourist. Thankfully, our driver was an experienced hand. Gripping and turning the steering wheel, he manoeuvred the jeep out of one hazard after another. It was only then that I understood why we had allowed ourselves as many as six to seven hours to cover the short distance of 135 kilometres from Habahe to Kanas. Finally, we crossed the Kanas River and arrived at Kanas Village, safe and sound.

The Carefree Life of the Mongolians

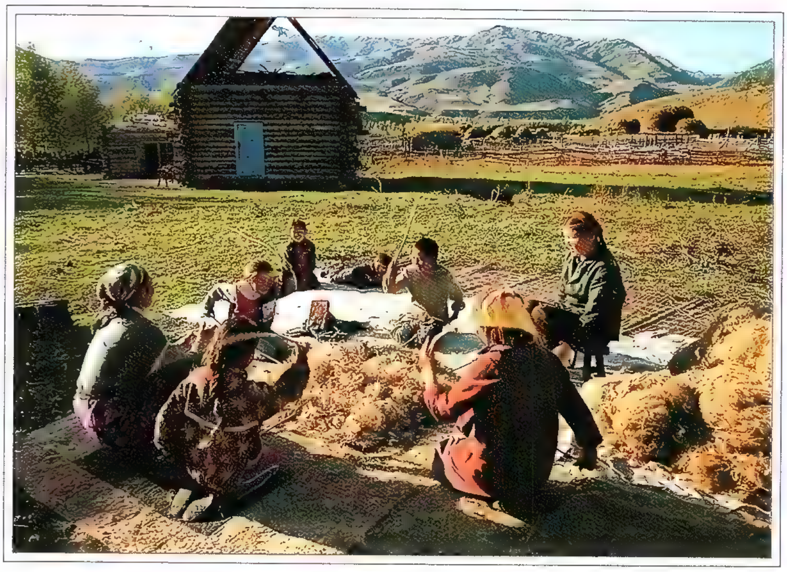
Kanas Village is inhabited entirely by Mongolians and is located within the boundaries of Hemu Kanas Mongolian Town in Burqin County. The broad facial features of the Mongolians were an immediate give-away as to their ethnic background. Living only some 20 kilometres away from the Khazak settlers at Baihaba we had just stayed with, the Mongolians here were a special breed.

Unlike Mongolians elsewhere, they did not speak standard Mongolian, but Turkic, a local dialect of the Altay group of languages. They did not believe in Tibetan Buddhism like many other Mongolians, but Shamanism. They did, however, worship Genghis Khan.

The houses here, whose roofs were also built with logs, seemed cruder than those in Baihaba. As the occupants lived by hunting, the outside walls of the houses all had animal hides nailed to them. In a flat open space outside, two groups of people were preoccupied with their work. One group consisted of several women who were kneeling on a mattress, working on a woollen felt rug. Using rather strange-looking actions, they rolled it up and unrolled it again and again.

After taking a closer look, I was reminded of the scene back in Baihaba of people beating wool. I learned that what I was seeing now was the next step in the process of making rugs. At this stage, the wool had to first be spread out evenly, then pressed flat by rolling it up repeatedly. This was how the felt rugs commonly used by both Mongolian and Khazak peoples were made. In fact, not only the carpets but also the entire yurts that residents live in are made using this traditional method. There was not a single trace of what we call "mod-

The scenery of Kanas River and the Altay Mountains beautifully complement each other (1, by Du Younong). ■ *These wooden houses in Baihaba Village are the homes of Khazak people (2, by Chan Yat Nin).* ■ *Khazak people in Tielieke Village (3, by Chan Yat Nin)* ■ *Beating wool in this manner looks like great fun (4, by Chan Yat Nin).* ■ *Animal skins hanging outside houses are a common sight in Kanas Village, where the Mongolian residents live by hunting (5, by Chan Yat Nin).* ■ *We had repeated encounters with sheep on our way from the Haba River to Kanas Lake (6, by Du Younong).*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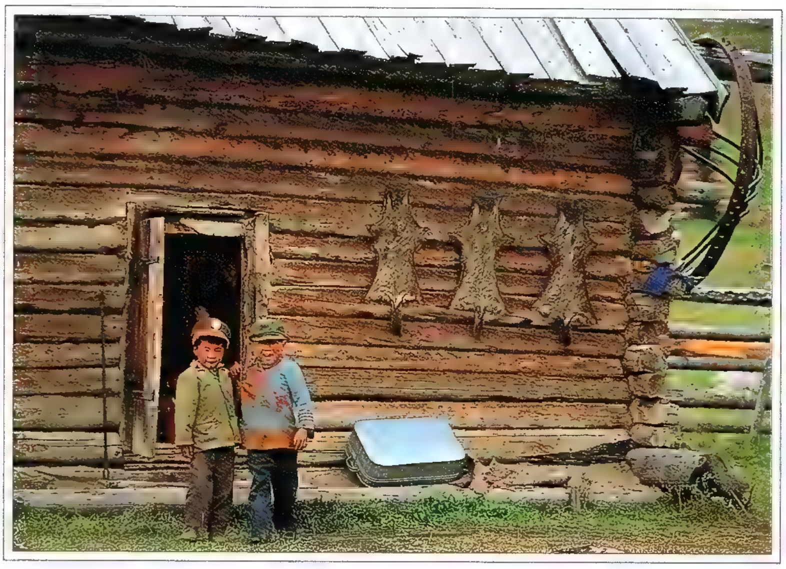
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An islets in Lesser Kanas Lake (1, by Chan Yat Nin) ■ Simple boats like this one can also be used for cruises on the lake (2, by Chan Yat Nin). ■ In the Turkic and Mongolian languages, "Kanas" means "beautiful and mysterious" (3, by Zhao Cheng'an). ■ The mist-shrouded forests by Lesser Kanas Lake (4, by Song Shijing)

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ern" life here, which reinforced my appreciation for the uniquely remote environment we were in.

The Changing Colours of Kanas Lake

The jeep bounced along another two kilometres and eventually came to a stop on the banks of Kanas Lake. Now that I had come face to face with this fantastic sight — one that I had imagined countless times in my mind — I suddenly found that no words were adequate to describe its charm. The blue water of the lake was crystal clear, and on the banks were thick forests of dark green and gold, whose shadows were reflected in the calm water. Around the lake, rolling hills, snow-covered peaks and a blue sky with drifting white clouds combined to make a spectacular scene.

With some trepidation, I walked into the dense forest. Man seemed miserably weak and tiny under the tall and sturdy dragon spruce, Korean pine, larch and fir trees. Viewing the lake from under the shade of these giant trees, it seemed all the more calm and tranquil.

As part of the lake is hidden behind a hill at a bend, the lake looked small at first, though it is actually 25 kilometres long and 1.6 to 3 kilometres wide. Located 1,300 metres above sea level, Kanas Lake is as much as 188 metres deep, making it the deepest lake in Xinjiang. The "Kanas ghost" which received so much news coverage a few years ago has now been proven to be a kind of giant red fish. Still, the spectre of the "ghost" surrounds the lake with a mysterious atmosphere, causing timid but curious visitors to stare intently at the water, hoping for a glimpse at the "ghost".

We were told that there were swans, black-necked cranes, mallards and other birds on the lake and in the forests, as well as snow leopards, red deer, argalis, sables, lynxes and bears in the mountains. Despite our tremendous interest in wildlife, we did not dare to venture into the woods since we had neither guides nor weapons with us.

After spending the night at a hostel by the lake, we got up the next morning before dawn. We could no longer see the sparkling stars in the sky, as a thick fog had descended. Experience told us that it would turn out to be a fine day, so we quickly smashed the layer of frozen ice on the jeep and were soon on our way again, heading towards the Guanyu (Fish Viewing) Pavilion nine kilometres away.

As the jeep climbed ever higher, we left the fog behind us. We turned back to look at the valley and found the thinning fog had revealed the tree tops. The rising sun cast its golden rays through the fog and onto the forests. We rushed to the Fish Viewing Pavilion and immediately set to work with our cameras, capturing on film this fantastic sight.

The pavilion is built on a hill whose cliffs are so steep, they look as if they had been carved by a sharp knife. A most advantageous point to view the lake below, it is naturally an ideal position to wait and see the "Kanas ghost". Now the lake was completely lost in the fog below which hovered above the tree tops. Above the fog, the sky was clear and the Altay Mountains rolled off towards the horizon.

The fog reluctantly thinned out as the sun rose higher, gradually giving way to a view of the lake's surface. Unlike the dark blue of the day before, the water now seemed a rather light shade of blue. Kanas Lake is known for its changing colours, which depend on the season, temperature and weather conditions. In summer, the water is a milky white with a slight tinge of blue and green, a result of the huge amount of moraine carried over by the melting glaciers.

From the Fish Viewing Pavilion, one can see that the lake is shaped like a crescent and has the geographical features of a glacial lake. In fact, most of the glaciers in the Altay Mountains are found at Kanas Lake. Out of the total 374 glaciers here, the most famous is the 15-kilometre-long Kanas Glacier, which serves as an inexhaustible supply of fresh water for the lake.

During the Quaternary period over 200 million years ago, the mountains at Kanas went through a second ice age, during which all the mountain slopes and valleys filled up with glaciers. The corrosive action of the slow-sliding glaciers created what is now a bizarre glacial topography. The sharp cliffs under the Fish Viewing Pavilion and the deep gully at the bed of the lake were footprints left by the glaciers. Around half a million years ago, the weather turned warmer, the glaciers receded and the huge pit cut by the glaciers became Kanas Lake.

Today, Kanas Glacier provides the lake with crystal-clear water and nurtures the vegetation in the vicinity. This, plus the fact that the northwest wing of the Altay Mountains is under the control of a southern Siberian cold and wet airstream, means that annual precipitation here is around 800 millimetres. Kanas' quite adequate rainfall is a great envy for people living in other parts of usually dry Xinjiang, whose overall average annual rainfall is below 200 millimetres. It ensures the existence of dense forests, lush grasslands and a rich variety of vegetation and wildlife, and makes the scenery here very different from other parts of Xinjiang.

This area is the only place in China that is home to animals and vegetation belonging to the ancient Euro-Siberian system. Standing on a hilltop, one can clearly see each strata of varying geographical topography: first a strip of meadow and grassland, then a coniferous forest belt with grey-black soil, a submountain meadow belt, an area of mountainous meadow, an ice bog belt and then finally a strip of permanent ice and snow.

After having lunch, which consisted of *nang* (baked bread) and tomatoes eaten on the hilltop, we hurried towards Lesser Kanas Lake. Lesser Kanas is actually an extension of Kanas Lake. The Kanas River passes through Kanas Lake and continues for 11 kilometres, when its clear water slows down to form the lesser lake.

To reach Lesser Kanas, we drove through a wide valley covered with thick, lush green grass. Normally, grass in the pastures has already turned yellow by this season, so we were naturally surprised to see such impressive green in this frigid mountain area. There were a few animals grazing on the grassland and there was a shallow lake in the middle. Wild ducks flew leisurely above the lake, keeping company with the oxen nearby.

The surface of Lesser Kanas had more twists and turns than the larger lake. In the sunshine, it appeared dark blue here, green or pink-green there. At other locations, the shallow flowing water sent out a silvery light, and set in the lake were several small islets covered with light yellow or dark green vegetation. This harmonious combination of water, light and the colours of nature turned the place into a picture-perfect landscape. Photos taken with even the simplest of cameras could surely produce magnificent images.

For this reason, Lesser Kanas is a favourite place for both painters and photographers, and we were no exception. We took out our cameras for one last photo session before we finally departed with great reluctance.

Translated by Huang Youyi

The Fish Viewing Pavilion is an excellent vantage point for viewing the lake (1, by Zhao Cheng'an). ▪ *In the sunlight, the mountain forests look especially enchanting (2, by Chan Yat Nin).* ▪ *Colourful Kanas River passes right through Kanas Lake (3, by Sun Jiabin).* ▪ *A thick veil of morning mist lingers over Kanas Lake before the sun rises (4, by Liang Feng).* ▪ *It must be wonderful to live in such a beautiful environment (5, by Song Shijing).* ▪ *Visitors can rent horses from herdsmen and ride around Lesser Kanas Lake (6, by Chan Yat Nin).*

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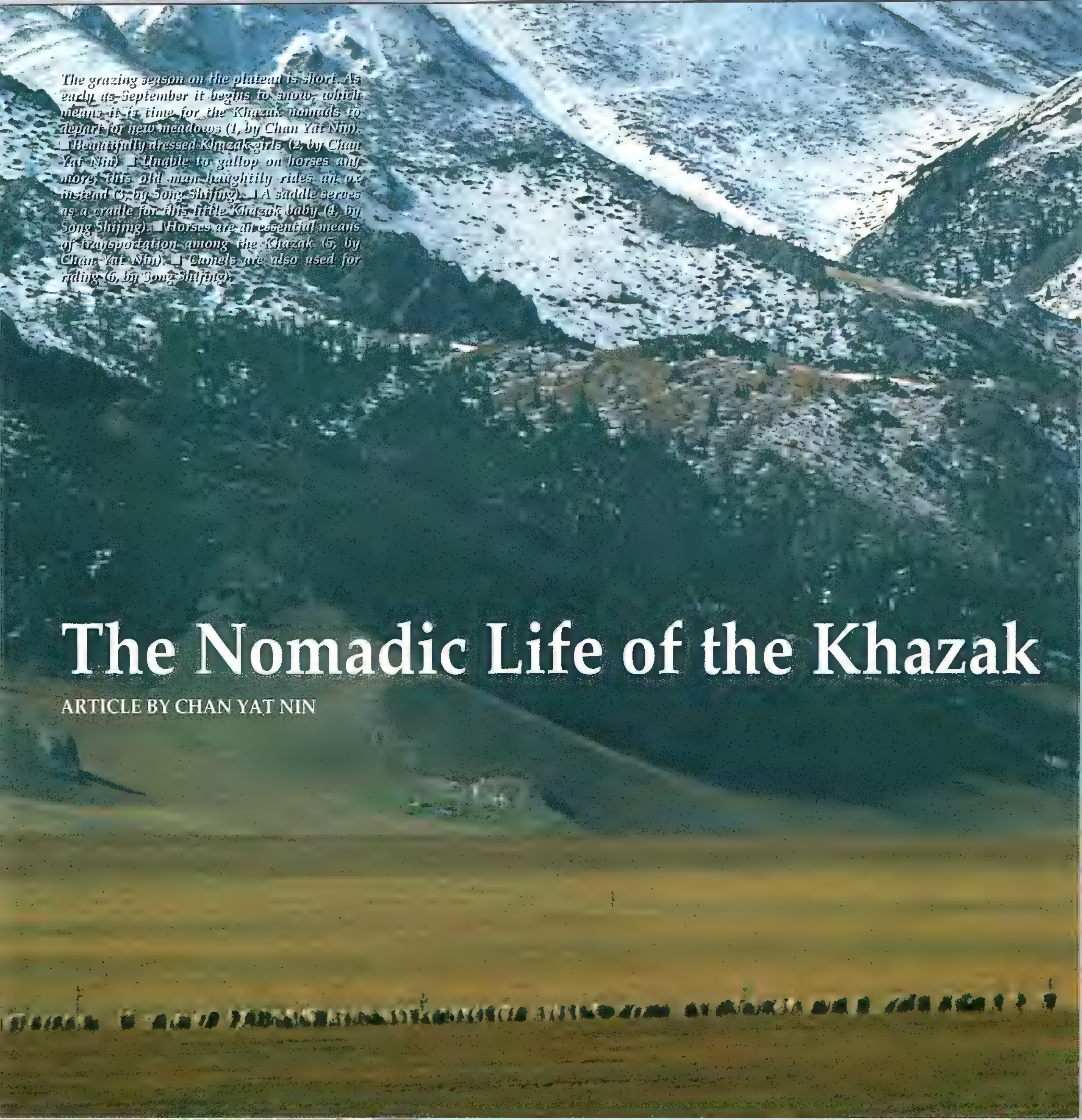

The grazing season on the plateau is short. As early as September it begins to snow, which means it is time for the Khazak nomads to depart for new meadows (1, by Chan Yat Nin). □ Beautifully dressed Khazak girls (2, by Chan Yat Nin) □ Unable to gallop on horses any more, this old man haughtily rides an ox instead (3, by Song Shijing). □ A saddle serves as a cradle for this little Khazak baby (4, by Song Shijing). □ Horses are an essential means of transportation among the Khazak (5, by Chan Yat Nin). □ Camels are also used for riding (6, by Song Shijing).

The Nomadic Life of the Khazak

ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

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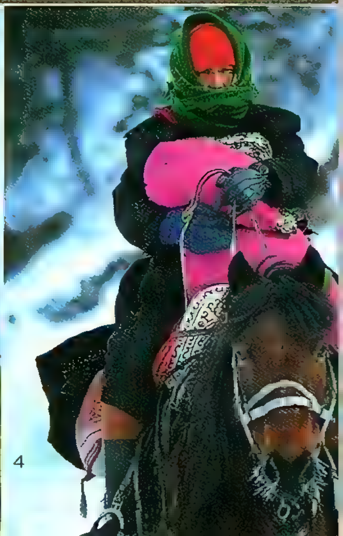
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The Khazak are a nomadic people who live in northern Xinjiang, a place of cloudless skies and luxuriant expanses of grassland. One can see them in forests, pastures and on mountain slopes in the areas around the Tianshan Mountains, the Sawuer Mountains, the Altay Mountains and on the wild prairies of the Junggar Basin. It can be said with certainty that wherever there is good grass, there are Khazak people. Every one of them, man or woman, young or old, can ride a horse. Don't be surprised if you happen to see a six or seven year old boy on horseback herding a flock of cattle, because he began learning horseback riding when he was in his mother's womb.

Being nomadic herders who make their living by animal husbandry, the Khazak people generally graze their herds during the day and rest beside a river or a pond at night. Every year at the end of winter as spring approaches, they pack up their belongings and yurts, put them on camels and leave for the meadows, where there is new grass to feed their horses, cattle and sheep. When the summer sun shines above the blooming flowers and verdant grass of the plateaus, the Khazak set up their yurts by forests at higher elevations. In the autumn when the grass turns brown, they go to valleys where it is still green. Autumn is also the best season to sell their animals which are, after a whole summer of good care and feeding, in their best condition. Before the bitter winter arrives again, they return to the plains, to prepare for winter. By then they have probably travelled more than a thousand kilometres and have completed a full circle.

A Khazak procession travelling from one meadow to another is quite a sight. Large herds of horses, cattle and sheep, followed closely by Khazak people on horseback, move forward like waves in a river. Behind them are camels carrying women, children, all their luggage and yurts. Before the sun sets, they find a place near water to erect simple tents and pass the night. If you ask them where their home is, they will probably say, "Every day our home is a new place," or simply "On a camel!" The Khazak's nomadic way of life, which has continued unchanged for centuries, has fostered in them a particular temperament which can be summed up as follows:

— Be fearless, strong and militant. Without these qualities, how could they cope with the foul weather, ever-changing environment and wild animals they encounter in their mobile life?

— Be honest and hospitable. Travelling all year round on vast expanses of grassland, they seldom encounter people, so when they do they treat all visitors as honoured guests. They treasure friendship and never try to take advantage of others.

— Be straightforward and carefree. Living a mobile life, they hate to be limited by time and space. They are straightforward, aboveboard and carefree.

The Origins of the Khazak People

In historical records, there are several explanations for the origin of the Khazak nationality, all of which say that they are descended from many ancient tribes from different places over a long period of time. It began during the Western Han Dynasty, when Zhang Qian (?-114 B.C.) was sent as an imperial envoy to the kingdoms of Wusun and Yuezhi in the Western Regions. The local people today known as the Wusun, Se and Yuezhi are in fact the remote ancestors of the present-day Khazak nationality. In the mid-sixth century, the Tujue (ancient Turks) living in the area of the Altay Mountains founded the Kingdom of Tujue Khan. During that time the Wusun people and the Tujue people merged. During the period from the 10th to the 13th century, the Huihu, Geluolu, Qidan (Khitan) and Mongolian peoples came to the grassland to the north of the Tianshan Mountains and intermarried with the Tujue, forming another branch of the Khazak nationality. The name "Khazak" came into being during the period from the 13th to the 15th century, when they were first chased west by Ghenghis Khan and later driven back east by the Uzbek Khan. Thus the original meaning of the word "Khazak" is "refugee"or "escapee".

Today, the population of the Khazak in China is about a million, the third largest ethnic group in Xinjiang (after the Uygur and Han). They are chiefly distributed in areas of northern Xinjiang such as the Ili Khazak Autonomous Prefecture, which exercises jurisdiction over Ili, Tacheng, Altay, the Mori Khazak Autonomous County, the Barkol Khazak Autonomous County and the Tianshan Grasslands near Urümqi and Changji. Khazak people can also be found in tourist spots like the Nanshan Meadow to the south of Urümqi, the Narat Grassland in Ili, the Künes Grassland, the Altay Grassland and on the banks of Lake Sayram, which is also inhabited by Mongolians.

There are other minority nationalities in Xinjiang besides the Khazak that are nomadic, such as the Mongolian, Tajik and Kirgis peoples. Among all the different groups, how can one identify the Khazak?

Actually, one can easily tell a Khazak male by a glance at his unique dress. The traditional costume of a Khazak man includes a high-collared, embroidered shirt with wide sleeves, over which is a vest made of flannel or fur and then a jacket. When he goes out, he puts on a robe or a heavy fur coat. To keep warm and for the convenience of riding a horse, his trousers are loose and made of durable sheep skin. A dagger is always carried at his waist. What is perhaps most eye-catching is his hat, which looks like the helmet of an ancient warrior. Cylindrical in shape, it has a square cover on the top with flaps on the right, left and back. It is usually adorned with an owl's feather, which is a sign of bravery and dependability. Another type is a white hat in the shape of a cone with a black upturned rim.

The costumes of the Khazak women are more colourful than the men's. Elderly ladies, married women and girls all wear different types of clothes. Girls and young women mostly wear dresses, over which are short-sleeved robes or vests. A young girl's hat is elaborately embroidered with flowers and decorated with strings of beads topped with a beautiful feather. On her wedding day, however, she wears a Phoenix Coronet with fringes of beads at the front. One year after a woman marries she changes her hat for a scarf. A middle-aged woman's scarf is so large that it covers her neck, both shoulders and reaches down to her waist, only revealing her face.

"When in Rome...."

If you pay a visit to a Khazak family, you will be treated warmly by the host but you must be prepared to both drink liquor and eat meat. Horse meat is regarded as the best food by Khazak people, so when an important guest calls, the host slaughters a two-year old horse or roasts a whole sheep in his honour. One of the most common foods eaten at such a dinner is called "finger-picking mutton". The host puts a thoroughly cooked sheep on a large plate and carves it up into small pieces, which everybody eats with their fingers. Another way of eating mutton is to slice it into shreds and then mix it with noodles. Again, one must use their fingers to shovel the food into

Elegant rams on the grassland (1, by Yan Xingmin) ▪ *Setting up a new home (2, by Song Shijing)* ▪ *Carrying the whole "household"on their backs, camels travel to new meadows (3, by Chan Yat Nin).* ▪ *Khazak tombs are elaborately built to resemble real villages, perhaps because the Khazak need a comfortable place to rest after a whole life of mobility (4, by Chan Yat Nin).* ▪ *Eagles are loyal friends to Khazak hunters (5, by Sun Jiabin).*

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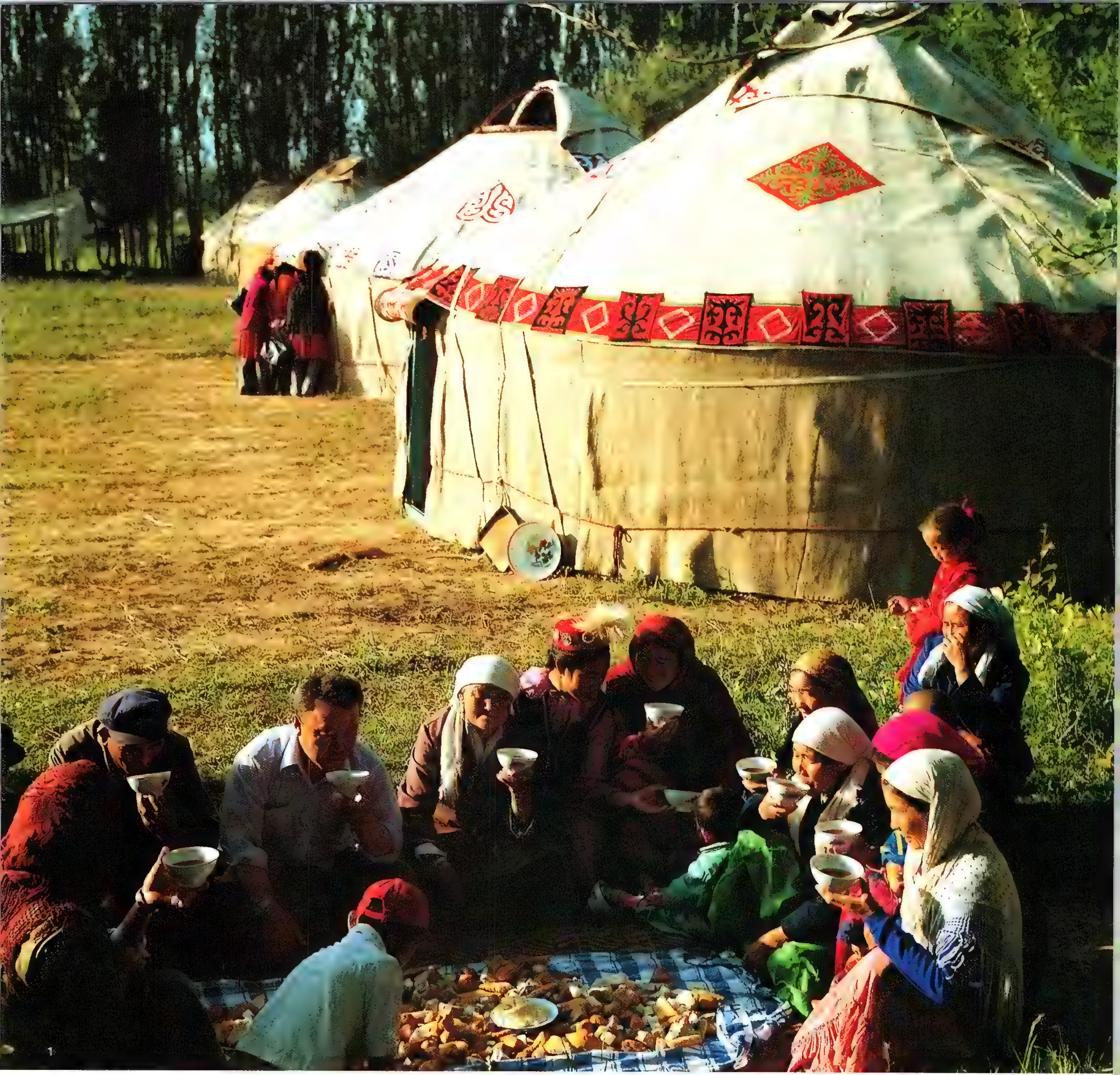

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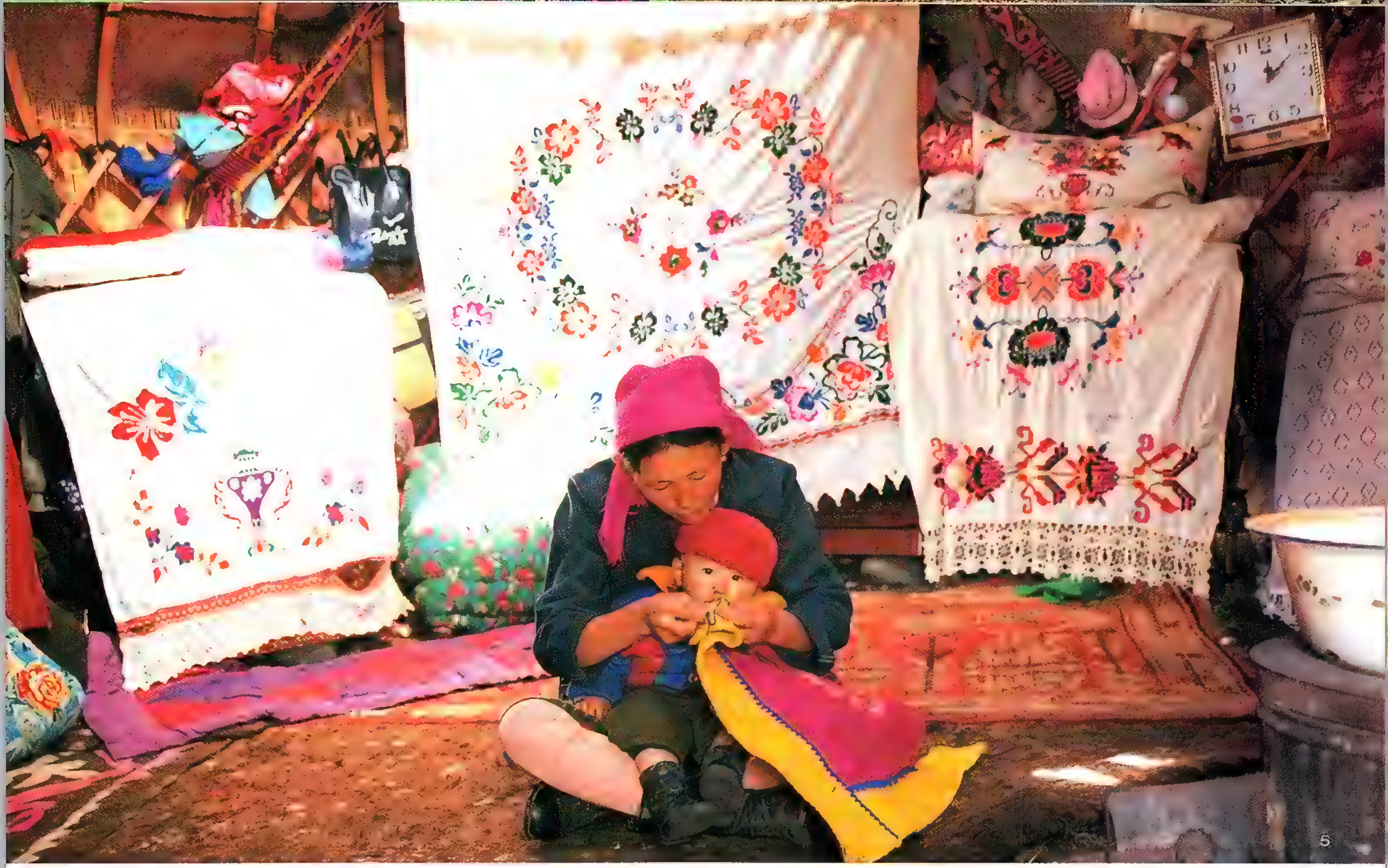
their mouth. Other typical fare for the Khazak includes *nang* (baked bread), "finger-picking rice", deep-fried donuts, milk tea, yoghurt and milk wine. For distinguished guests, a special ordeal awaits them at the end of the dinner. After a full meal of meat and wine, the guest must then eat a fairly large piece of fat from a sheep's tail.

Greasy food and liquor are necessary, I gathered, for the Khazak people to keep warm on the high plateaus, where weather is often nasty and temperatures are very low. At night, they eat meat, drink liquor and sing songs, going to bed only in the wee hours. When they get up the following day, it is already about noon. In this way, they pass the long, cold nights in a manner that might rival the so-called night life of urban people.

As the saying goes, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." Though the Khazak people are warm and carefree, I would advise you to follow their customs if you happen to visit them. For instance, when you approach your host's yurt on a horse, you must not gallop right to the door and dismount. Instead, you ought to hold the reins, move



steadily and dismount at the back of the house or yurt, otherwise, the host might think that you have some bad news for him. There are also other rules you must observe. You must never chase or hit a dog in front of its master. You must not walk through a flock of sheep or step over a reclining ox or sheep or even the leashes of these animals.

As you enter the yurt, you must not step over the brazier, nor the cloth spread out for food on the floor. Nor must you go around the brazier. When entering a yurt, stay on the left side. When you leave, exit on the left too. When you sit, sit on the carpet with your legs crossed or on your knees, but never stretch out your legs. Do not praise children in front of their parents. Saying that somene's child is plump is taboo, because this is taken as a bad omen. If you are invited to a meal, you must wash your hands both before and after the meal. Never refuse the food offered to you, whether you like it or not. The host will take care of serving tea, so you needn't do it yourself. When you have drunk enough, cover your cup with your hand. If you don't, the host will keep pouring tea into your cup.

As strict Muslims, the Khazak people never even talk about pork at a meal. Of course, as a guest, you must also respect their observation of Islamic rules. For instance, you must never imitate their prayer movements. Never walk in front of a man who is praying, nor cross over the white cloth he uses for his prayer rituals.

Like other Islamic peoples, the Khazak also celebrate the Corban Festival and the Rozah Festival (Lesser Bairam). Apart from these, they have their own New Year celebration called the Nawurezi Festival, which falls in March. The word "nawurezi" in the Khazak language means bidding farewell to the old year and ushering in the

Festivals are occasions for Khazak people to get together and relax (1, by Song Shijing). ▨ *Herders drive their sheep to different pastures according to the seasons (2, by Liang Feng).* ▨ *Khazak women do beautiful embroidery (3, by Sun Jiabin).* ▨ *Making rope from sheep's wool (4, by Sun Jiabin)* ▨ *The interior of yurts are beautifully decorated, despite the fact that they have to be moved frequently (5, by Chan Yat Nin).*

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new year. It is the time when spring returns and everything wakes up and begins a new life.

It is a most important and joyous festival to the Khazak people. At home, they make special dishes of rice, wheat, millet, cheese, beef and mutton. They then go to one another's yurts to have the Nawurezi dinner and sing songs. On this occasion, they present sheep heads which they kept from the previous winter's slaughter to the elderly people. The old folks gladly receive the presents and chant their wishes for a good harvest and healthy domestic animals for the coming year. Young men and women gather together and hold large-scale horse races and other events, thus it is a time of great commotion and fun.

One of the most unusual events of the Khazak New Year is called "Sheep Grabbing", which is also held on occasions like weddings and certain other festivals. The best season for this game is summer, when the grass is green, the horses are strong and the sheep fat. Sheep Grabbing is a competition of strength and riding skill. To start the competition, a ceremony master first throws a headless sheep down on the ground. At his order, two teams of riders rush towards the sheep. The first rider picks up the sheep and the others chase him, trying to grab the sheep from him. His teammates protect the rider with the sheep by blocking the others. They can pass the sheep within the team, sort of like passing the ball in American football. If it is grabbed away, they must give chase and get it back. The one who gets the sheep to the designated point is the winner.

Another game called "Girl Chasing" is much less violent and very amusing. This game is said to have originated from a legend about a hunter and a Swan Fairy who got married. On their wedding day, they each rode a white horse and chased each other on the verdant grassland. They are said to be the ancestors of the Khazak people. Later on, chasing a girl on horseback on the grassland became a way for a young man to express his love for a girl.

Girl Chasing games are usually held in summer and autumn, when the grasslands are green and sprinkled with flowers. A young woman and man are chosen from two different teams. They each get

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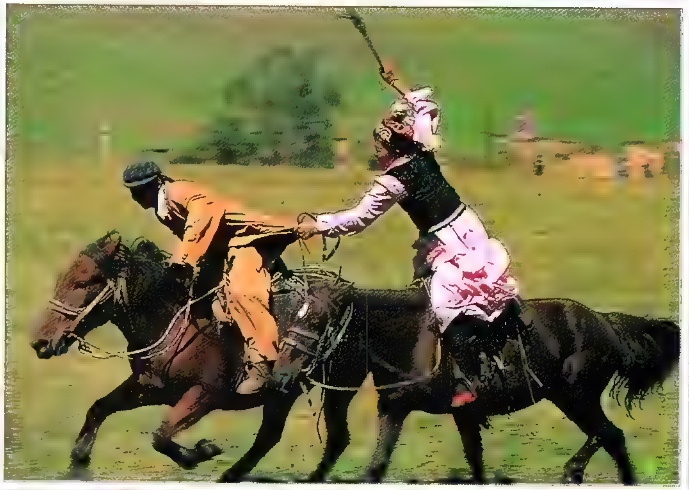
on a horse and trot along together towards a place as far as the onlookers can see. On the way, the man might tease or flirt with the girl. The girl must not show any annoyance, even if she is very angry with him. However, after reaching the end of their short journey, on the way back the girl can chase the man and avenge herself by lashing at him with her whip. If the girl only wields her whip over the man's head without really touching him, or perhaps makes eyes at him, it is obvious that the girl has fallen for him and a match is made — not in heaven but on horseback.

Translated by Wang Mingjie

These young people are dressed up like ballad singers (1, by Song Shijing). Everyone wears their best clothes for festivals (2, by Song Shijing). The Khazak people pray on the grasslands or in forests. This unique way of religious practice is attributed to their nomadic life (3, by Song Shijing). A Sheep Grabbing contest underway (4 & 6, by Sun Jiabin) Khazak children begin riding horses in their mothers' wombs (5, by Chan Yat Nin). At the end of one Girl Chasing game, the girl catches up with the young man and gives him a good whipping (7, by Chan Yat Nin).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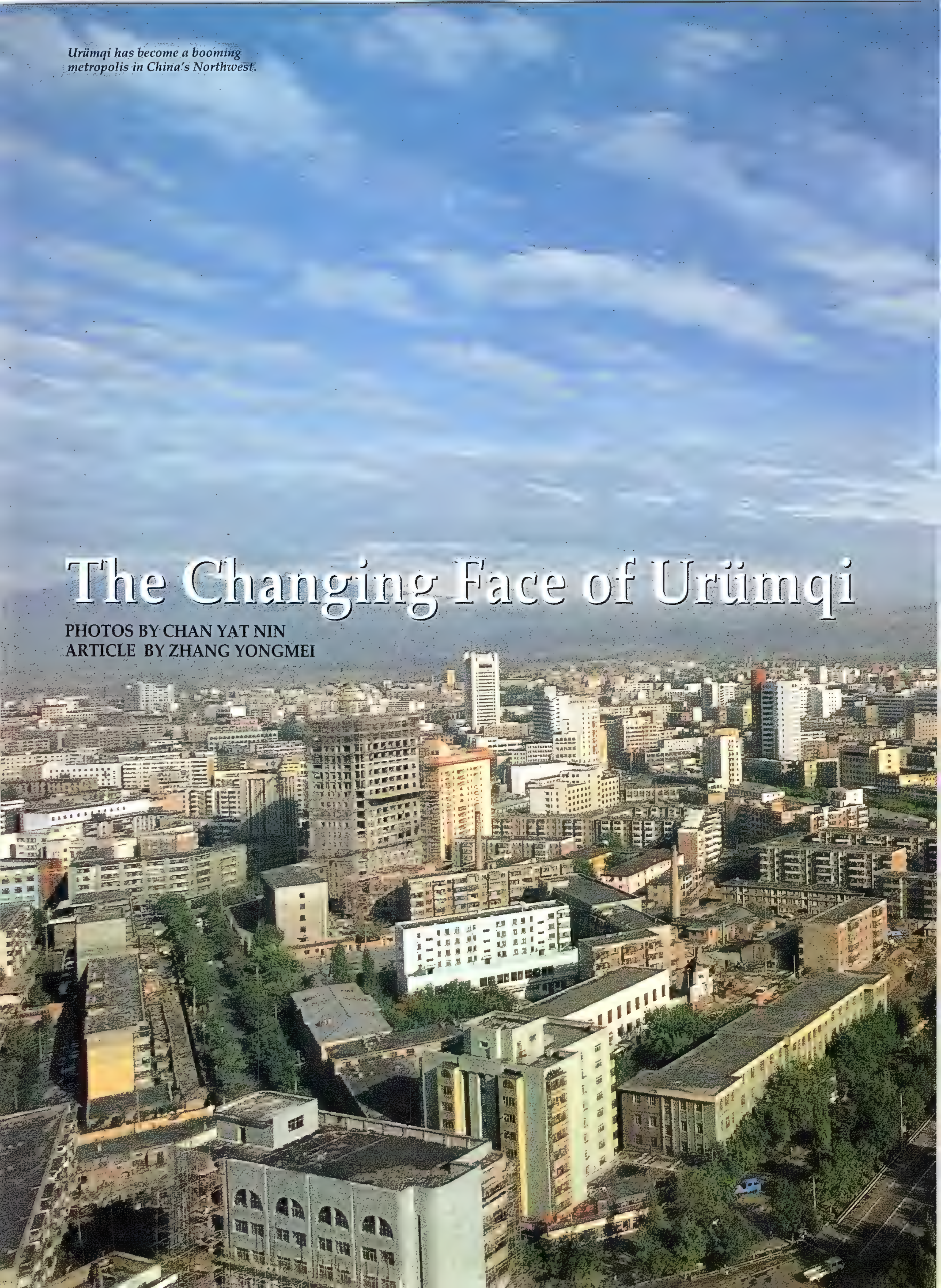
The Changing Face of Urümqi

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN
ARTICLE BY ZHANG YONGMEI



Urümqi has become a booming metropolis in China's Northwest.

Urümqi bustles with activity during the yearly economic and trade fair.

Uygur people have their own style of dress.

Urümqi has countless stalls selling kebabs.

A whole roasted camel can feed several hundred people (by Song Shijing).

The Erdao Bridge market has a large stock of Xinjiang rugs from several well-known places.

The city of Urümqi on the northern side of the Tianshan Mountains is an oasis of abundance in a boundless desert. In ancient times, the area where Urümqi now sits was a great pastureland of fertile soil and plentiful water and grass. The herdsmen living on this vast expanse of virgin grassland fondly called the place Urümqi, meaning "a beautiful pasture".

During the first century, the government of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) began sending troops and farmers to the area to reclaim land, build farms and open up the northern part of the Silk Road. Over time, the city of Urümqi began to take shape and eventually became a well-known frontier town on the Silk Road, linking East and West.

A Frontier City Takes on a New Look

Today, Urümqi is the political, economic and cultural centre as well as the capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. With a population of 1,220,000, the city is inhabited by people from 36 different nationalities. While keeping pace with the changing times, each of the nationalities has managed to preserve their traditions and unique characteristics. As a result, old and new, traditional customs and modern trends exist side by side in the city, giving it a very unusual appearance.

In the early morning, when the sun sparkles on the eternally snow-capped Bogda Peak to the east of the city, it also brightens other sights: the pagoda on top of Red Hill, the dome of the South Gate Theatre and the green glazed tiles of the Great Mosque. The luxurious Holiday Inn, the imposing Great Hall of the People, and the tree-and-flower-lined streets begin to come to life in the morning sunlight.

The Imam starts to recite the Koran on top of the minaret of the mosque in a loud, clear voice. On the tree-studded lawns in the parks and in the spacious People's Square, thousands of residents begin their morning exercises to the accompaniment of music. There are amateur Beijing Opera singers, disco enthusiasts, people doing Taiji exercises to the accompaniment of classical music, and fans of international social dancing performing rumbas or tangos in pairs. Together, this conglomerate mixture of sports and recreational activities presents a lively and colourful morning scene.

In the evening, the city of Urümqi becomes a sea of lights surrounded by mountains. A colourful night life begins in the more than 30 theatres and cinemas, 40-plus dance halls, and karaoke teahouses, where people sing to the popular music of the Rewapu guitar.

Commercial buildings and shops are now found in every part of the city. There are large department stores, shopping districts, shoe bazaars, boutiques and florist shops, all with fashionable shop fronts. Fast food restaurants such as Kentucky Fried Chicken are doing brisk business. New hotels and restaurants are being opened every day. Tall, good-looking men and women in fashionable clothes are a common sight.

The traditional bazaars of Urümqi have been converted into several large marketplaces, where every imaginable kind of product is available — vegetables, gourds, fruit, chickens, ducks, fish, shrimp, garments, ornaments and traditional Xinjiang snacks. The sound of hawkers is mixed with the noise of customers bargaining and the clinking of cooking utensils. In the evening, the sidewalks are lined with stalls selling kebabs, baked dumplings, mutton and rice (which one eats with the right hand), steamed noodles, fried fish, stir-fried snails and other local delicacies.

The street that runs from the Hantengri Shopping Arcade at the South Gate to the market selling minority goods at Erdao Bridge is a thriving market area selling traditional daily necessities. Here one can buy finely made Uygur hats, colourful Igris silk, exquisitely crafted Yingisar knives, gorgeous Hotan rugs

The most eye-catching objects in the Uygur market at Erdao Bridge are these gleaming Uygur knives.

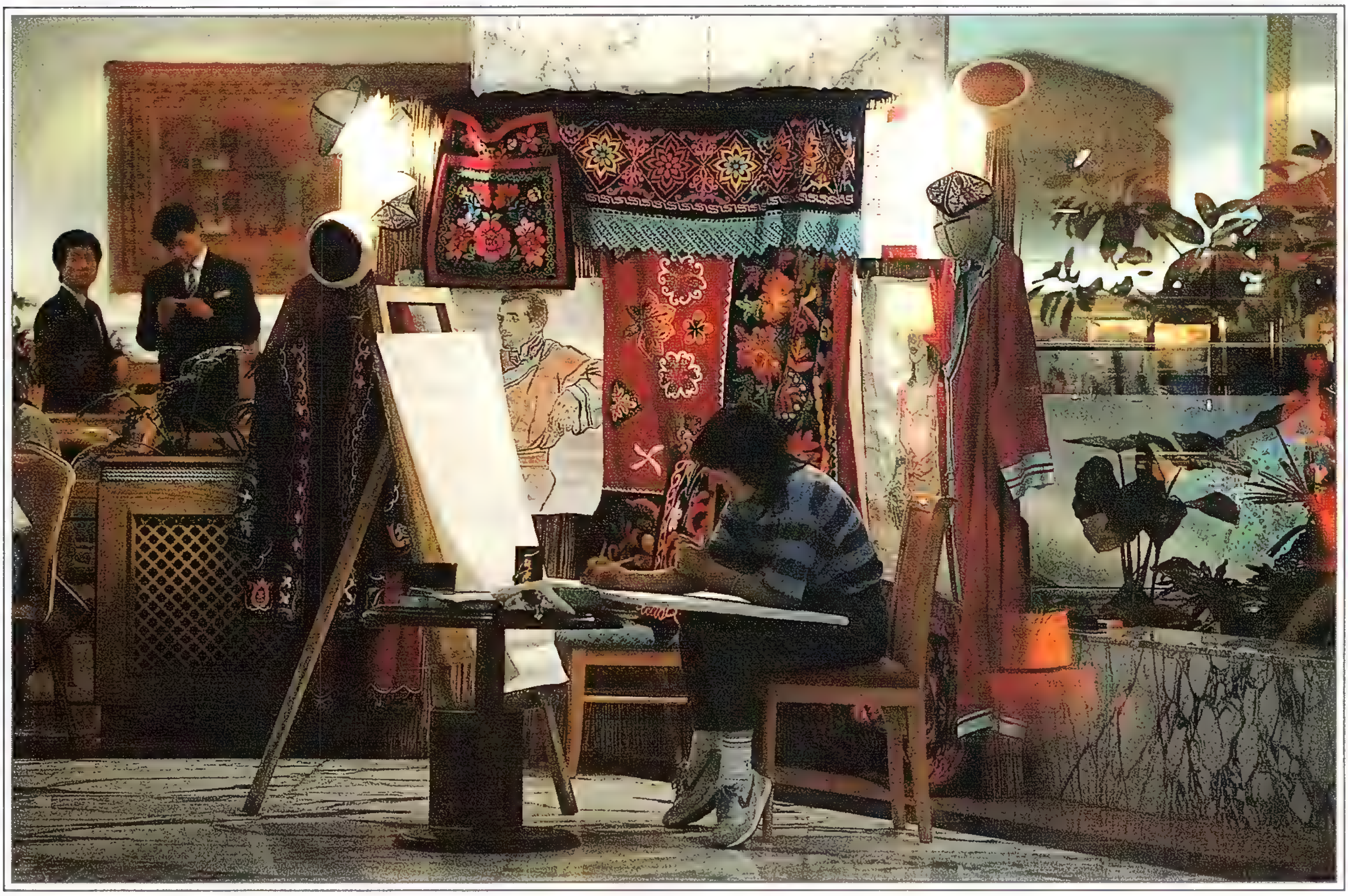
Xinjiang is "a land of melons and fruit".

Urümqi is closely following the southeastern coastal cities in its night life.

Wide streets and tall buildings are part of Urümqi's new look.

This posh restaurant in the Holiday Inn seems to be telling people that there is more to eat than mutton and *nang* cakes in Xinjiang.

An artist in the hotel sketches tourists dressed in Uygur attire.



and a large variety of jewelry, ornaments, garments, shoes, socks, suitcases and boxes. The street is like a long scroll depicting the lives of the ethnic peoples.

Even today, many people living in the interior of China still believe that Xinjiang is a "cultural desert". They would be surprised to learn that in Urümqi alone there are several hundred kindergartens and grammar schools, as well as a large number of secondary vocational schools and institutes of higher learning. There are also libraries, museums, exhibition halls, science halls, mineral exhibition halls, youth centres and children's cultural palaces, all of which broaden the horizons of the city's residents.

In the Xinjiang Museum in Urümqi, there is a 3,000-year-old corpse of a young woman. It is both the most well-preserved and the earliest known human remains ever found in China. Other corpses have also been uncovered from ancient graves belonging to the Han people and ethnic minorities. Some were unearthed from single graves and some from graves where husbands and wives were buried together. These silent remains show that for thousands of years the area today known as Xinjiang has been a crossroads for many different nationalities and an important part of the famous Silk Road.

Scenic Spots Around the City

During the long winter, Urümqi is covered with snow and the frozen frost on the tree branches turns the city silver. But Urümqi is at its most attractive in the summer, when the trees are green, water gurgles in the streams, flowers bloom and mountains are a lush green.

Although there are eight famous scenic spots within the city's confines, residents generally prefer the summer resorts on the outskirts. One of these is Tianchi (Heavenly Lake), formed two million years ago during the Great Glacial Period. Located in the northern peaks of Mount Bogda, 100 kilometres east of Urümqi, the lake was given elegant names such as Jade Pond and Dragon's Pool in ancient times and was later known as the Heavenly Mirror and Divine Pond. Legend says that the lake was a mirror on the dressing table of the Western Queen Mother, a popular goddess in Chinese mythology.

A highway leads to the top of Mount Bogda, and after passing through the Stone Gate and a gorge, one reaches the Smaller Heavenly Lake, which sits like a sapphire on green velvet. Climbing still higher, one soon comes to the Heavenly Lake itself. The lake water is transparently clear, and the reflections of the blue sky, clouds, snow-capped peaks and pine trees give the place the feeling of otherworldliness. It is no wonder that people often compare this lake to West Lake in Hangzhou and the crystal-clear lakes of Switzerland.

Nanshan (Southern Hill) Pasture is another tourist attraction in Urümqi, which is characterized by numerous hills and deep gorges. Tall poplars grow everywhere and there are several beautiful orchards. Almost every gorge and hill offers a spectacular view, making it the best summer resort in the city's environs.

Here one will also find Xibaiyang (West Poplar) Gully, which attracts more tourists than any other place in Urümqi. The gentle slopes on the sunny side of the hills are covered with verdant grass, virgin pines and fir trees. Cattle and sheep are scattered here and there, and herdsmen's songs echo in the valleys. On the meadows, Khazak herdsmen hold horse races and other popular summertime games. In the mushroom-like white yurts, one can try the local milk tea and cheese. On the road to the Baiyang (Poplar) River in the mountains, tourists are often greeted by smiling Khazak boys offering a ride on their horse for just a few yuan. Nearby Poplar Waterfall, created by the runoff of melting snow, splashes down a cliff more than 40 metres high, forming a misty curtain and a colourful rainbow.

When people in Urümqi return from visits to Guangzhou, Shanghai or cities abroad, they invariably complain that the speed of Urümqi's progress is still too slow. They think Urümqi is in urgent need of more new ideas, new developments, new funds and new talents. Business people are now showing more and more interest in the city, considered a bridge on the new Silk Road. As I sat on the ridge of Red Hill, known as the eye of Urümqi, and enjoyed a panoramic view of the environs, I couldn't help but wonder what further changes were in store for Urümqi in the future.

Translated by Tang Bowen

West Poplar Gully is a pasture for Khazak herdsmen and a paradise for tourists.

Heavenly Lake in the Tianshan Mountains is a must for every tourist (by Liang Feng).

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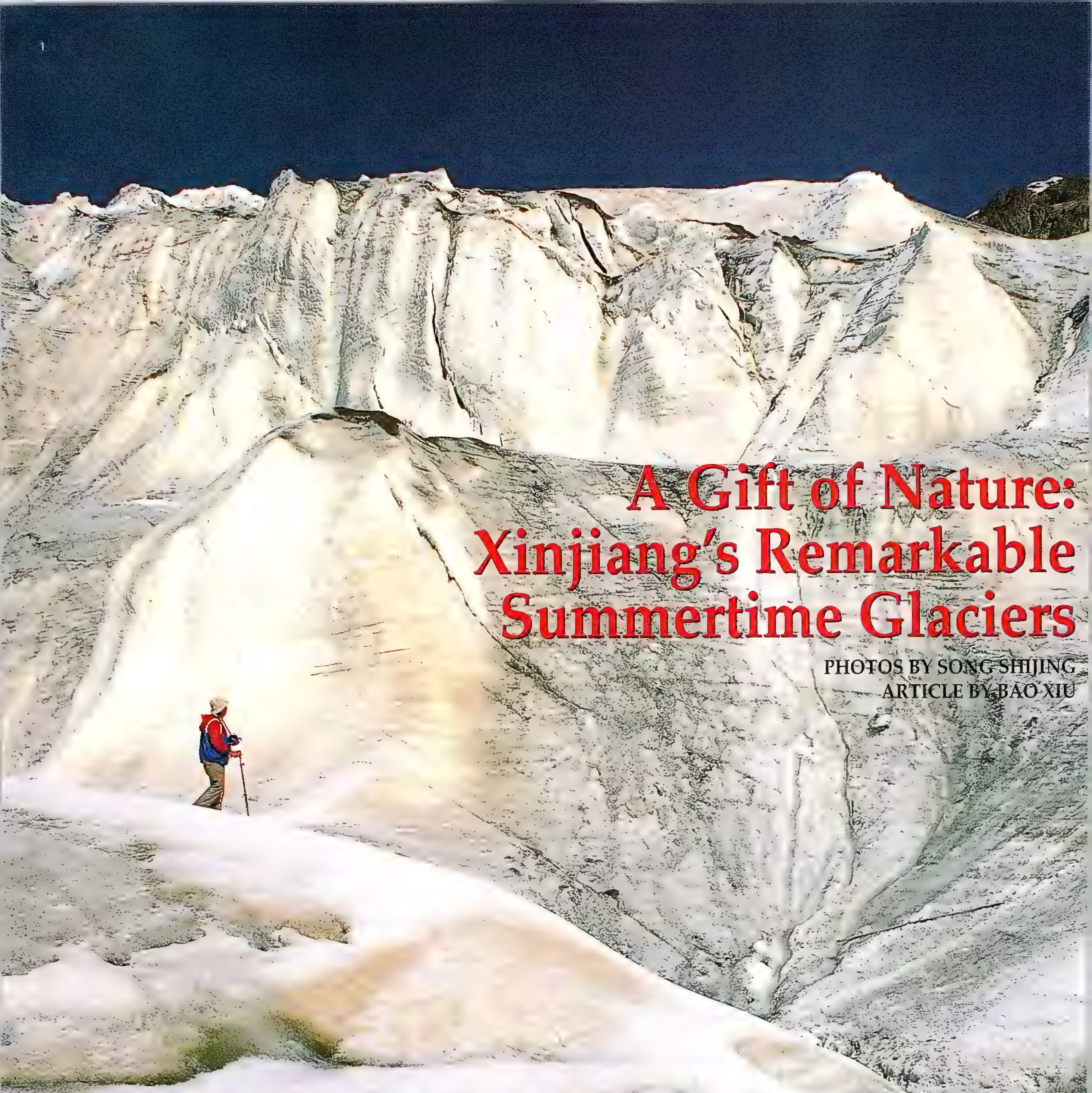

A Gift of Nature: Xinjiang's Remarkable Summertime Glaciers

PHOTOS BY SONG SHIJING
ARTICLE BY BAO XIU

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Summers in Urümqi are suffocatingly hot. Fortunately, on a mountaintop not far from the city proper, there is a vast kingdom of glaciers which provide Urümqi residents with an ideal summer resort. After leaving Urümqi and driving for about 50 kilometres, we arrived at a green valley called Xibaiyang (West Poplar) Gully, where we could see the yurts of the Khazak people, herds of grazing horses, forests and waterfalls. It is a tranquil, scenic spot located in the suburbs of the city. Driving further along the Urümqi River for another 30 kilometres, we passed through a primeval forest of tall firs and then finally came to the "Kingdom of Glaciers", the source of the Urümqi River.

It seemed strange that amidst the lush green of summer we should suddenly find ourselves amongst nothing but gleaming bluish ice and snow. A less than three-hour ride transports one from scorching summer to frigid winter. Rising to an altitude of more than 4,000 metres above sea level, there are a total of 77 glaciers scattered on the mountain slopes. Due to the severe cold, the snow on the mountaintops gets thicker and thicker as the years go by. Through a combined process of pressure, freezing and re-crystallation, the snow gradually becomes a semi-transparent bluish colour. These masses of ice, due to their steep gradient and the force of gravity, move slowly down to form glaciers. In their wake, these solid "rivers" — like giant excavators — create many weirdly-shaped forms and peaks.

Thanks to the region's remoteness, it has suffered little human damage. As a result, many unique natural wonders such as ice caves, ice wells, rivers beneath the ice, and seracs (cuboid or pillar-shaped blocks of ice) have been well preserved. Even the remains of the glacial movements of ancient times can be clearly observed. Naturally, this has become an ideal place for scholars, both Chinese and foreign, to investigate, observe and study glaciers. It also provides a wonderful setting for tourists who want to explore nature and for summer camps for young children.

Making use of a makeshift road, small cars can drive straight up to the renowned No. 1 Glacier. As the largest of the glaciers in this "Kingdom of Glaciers", it is two kilometres long and has an average width of 500 metres. In front of the "ice tongue" of the No.1 Glacier there is a cave some 80 metres deep. It was dug over a period of several years by people working at the glacier-observing station. A remarkable water curtain is formed here, as hot air currents rise up from the foothills and melt the ice at the mouth of the cave. On the sheer cliffs flanking the glacier, snow lotus flowers bigger than one's palm defiantly blossomed. While most flowers bloom only in warm seasons, the snow lotuses, undaunted by the severe cold, open their blossoms to a world of ice and snow, a rare natural phenomenon.

On an even bigger scale are the glaciers covering the northern and southern slopes of the Tianshan Mountains. The largest glaciers in all of China, they provide an almost endless supply of water for the region. Under the scorching summer sun the hardened glaciers melt into water droplets, then form small streams and finally become the Ili River, the Aksu River, the Manas River and the Urümqi River, which nourish vast and fertile oases. Offering spectacular scenery and a cool place to go in summer for we humans are only fortunate side effects of these mammoth works of nature. **Translated by Ann Yan**

The most spectacular sights here are the "ice walls" (1, by Zhao Cheng'an). ■ Experts at the glacier-surveying station work in the severe cold all year round (2). ■ These snow lotuses are remarkably resistant to cold, and would in fact wither and die in a warm environment (3, by Sun Jiabin). ■ Besides the glacier research centre, there is also a weather station (4). ■ It is like getting into a huge refrigerator when entering this 80-metre-long man-made ice cave (5). ■ The giant fan-shaped tongue of the No.1 Glacier of the Tianshan Mountains (6).

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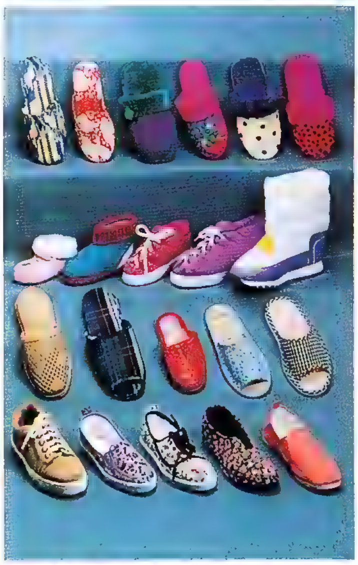

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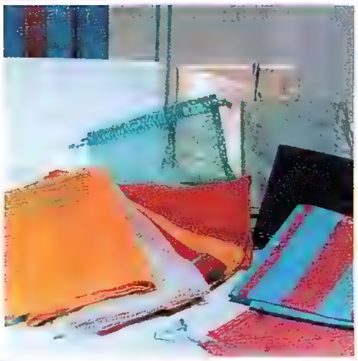

A Journey on the Rim of the Junggar Basin

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

At the southern end of State Highway 216, a bright moon shines above the mist-covered mountains (1). ■ *Wind has done a wondrous job on the topography of the Junggar Basin. This is the "Ghost Town" in the desert near Qitai County (2, by Zhao Cheng'an).* ■ *Survival of the fittest: Diversiform-leaved poplar trees are one of the few species that flourish in the desert (3, by Zhao Cheng'an).*

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If you happen to visit the city of Urümqi and wish to make a trip around the Junggar Basin, one of the best ways is to first go by bus to Kanas Lake in the Altay Mountains in northern Xinjiang. The bus follows the western rim of the basin, stopping over at Changji, Hutubi, Shihezi, Kuytun, Karamay and Burqin until it ends at Altay, the seat of the prefecture of the same name.

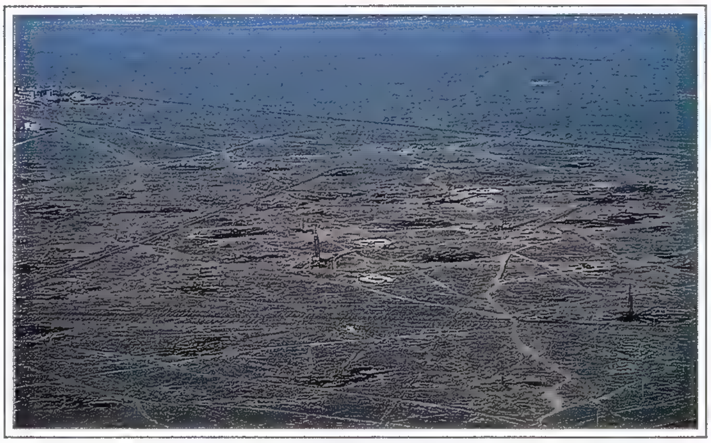
After finishing this journey of 1,000 kilometres, continue your trip along the eastern-rim highway, which will take you to Beitun, the Ertix River Valley and Fuyun (Koktokay). Then you can take the newly built State Highway 216 through the Gurbantünggüt Desert, where there is a great deal to see: a nature reserve for rare animals in the Karamali Mountains, the "Ghost Town" and fossilized forest of Qitai County and another "Ghost Town" at Wucaiwan in Jimsar County. The highway will bring you back to Urümqi by way of Fukang.

China's Second Largest Basin

"Two basins sandwiched between three mountains" is the way people describe the topography of Xinjiang. One of the basins, the Junggar, is hemmed in between the Altay Range in northern Xinjiang and the Tianshan Mountains in the centre. The other basin is the Tarim, situated between the Tianshan Mountains in the north and the Karakorum Mountains in the south.

About 100 million years ago, most of what is today Xinjiang was part of the sea, with only two landheads — Junggar and Tarim — protruding from the water's surface. By the Palaeozoic Era, violent crustal movements caused the seawater to ebb and the seabed around Junggar and Tarim to rise until both were encircled by towering mountain ranges.

Covering an area of 380,000 square kilometres and rising from 189 to 1,000 metres above sea level, Junggar is the second largest basin in China. The topography of Junggar is divided into three parts. The northern plain is typical of a wind-erosion landform, with vast expanses of steppes and semi-barren grasslands. The southern plain is the main agricultural zone for northern Xinjiang. The third part is the Gurbantünggüt, the second largest desert in China, which lies in the middle of the two plains and has a total area of 48,800 square kilome-



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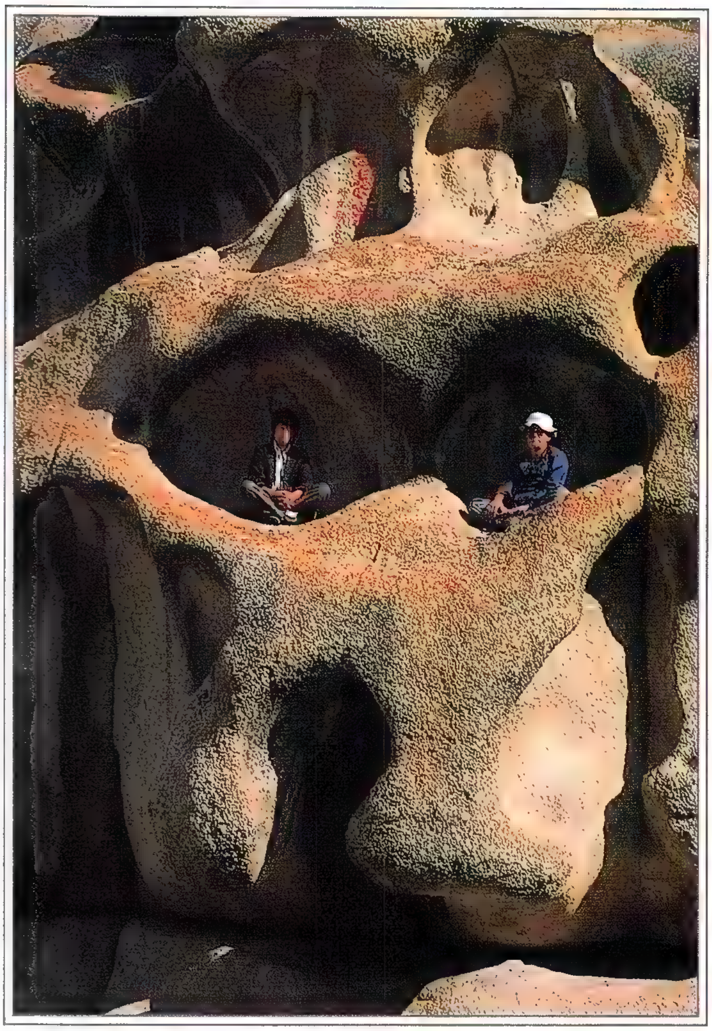
tres. The moist air currents from the Alataw Mountain Pass and the Emin and Ertix river valleys on the western rim of the basin contribute to an annual precipitation of 100-250 millimetres, which provides just enough moisture to keep the desert plants and animals alive.

The southern part of the Junggar Basin is under the jurisdiction of Urümqi and the Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture. Western Junggar embraces the cities of Shihezi and Karamay, the Bortala Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture and Tacheng Prefecture. The northern and eastern parts of the basin belong to Altay Prefecture. Since ancient times, the basin's peripheral area has been a grazing land for nomads.

Shihezi, situated in the centre of a man-made oasis, is a major base for land reclamation in southern Junggar (1, by Liao Zhouyan). ▨ *Full-scale development has been underway for decades in Karamay, which has abundant oil reserves (2, by Zhao Cheng'an).* ▨ *The new railway station at the Alataw Mountain Pass is the westernmost terminal in China on the Eurasian Continental Bridge (3).* ▨ *This place is rightly known as the Gully of Strange-Looking Rocks (4, by Zhao Cheng'an).* ▨ *Urho, near Karamay, is where Junggar's largest "Ghost Town" is located. The exotic shape of the terrain is a result of the valley's extremely high winds (5).*



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The agricultural areas and cities in the south are mostly inhabited by Han, Uygur and Hui people, while the western, northern and eastern parts are home to Khazak and Mongolian tribes.

Though there are few settlements in the vast desert, central Junggar is far more livable than the Taklimakan Desert, or "Sea of Death", in southern Xinjiang. Vegetation covers 20-40 per cent of the land here, and the herbage growing in the vales between sand dunes attracts nomads in search of pastureland.

Man-Made Oases and a Strange Gully

Embarking on my west-bound journey from Urümqi, I saw the snowy ranges of the Tianshan Mountains looming in the distance. The highway was flanked by flat farm fields crisscrossed by row upon row of shelterbelts in a chessboard pattern. The Junggar Basin was not the gloomy wasteland I had imagined it to be.

Soon the highway threaded its way through Shihezi and Kuytun, the two cities here whose names are synonymous with man-made oases. Only a few decades ago, both places were reed marshes and sandy fields infested with nothing but red willow trees and scraggly bushes.

Since time immemorial, runoffs have turned the land at the foot of the Tianshan range into deltas and plains strewn with oases, where native inhabitants laboured, lived and multiplied. Natural oases, however, were too few and far between, and people had to build more of them wherever there was water. Through generations of labour, the once dreary, parched deserts have come alive with large numbers of flourishing oases which have become unique landmarks for Junggar. Over the last 40 years or so, Shihezi and Kuytun have served as hubs for Xinjiang's gigantic land-reclamation project. Like other newly emerging cities, they are both laid out according to a well-conceived urban plan with wide, straight streets.

Turning north at Kuytun 252 kilometres from Urümqi, the road continues on to Karamay and Altay. Those who want to see the Alataw Mountain Pass, which is known as the mouth of the basin, and Ebinur Lake, the bottom of the basin, can take the west-bound road to Bole (Bortala) in the Bortala Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture. After a night at Bole near the border with Kazakhstan, one can visit the Gully of Strange-Looking Rocks to the northeast of the city and then go to the Alataw Mountain Pass.

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The gully, located 38 kilometres from downtown Bole, is studded with stones of incredible shapes which cover an area of 100 square kilometres. From a distance they resemble herds of sheep, and that is why local Khazak people call them "sheep-shaped rocks". They are actually huge rocks riddled with round, smooth holes of varying sizes. Known geographically as wind-eroded rocks, they came into shape through long years of exposure to sunshine, rain and sandstorms.

A Dry Lake at Alataw Pass

The Alataw Mountain Pass is at the other end of a 73-kilometre new highway that starts at Bole. Along the way we passed Ebinur Lake, whose once voluminous 1,000-square-kilometre water surface is no more. To our great disappointment, the lake bed lay naked, a boundless expanse of wasteland.

At an altitude of 189 metres above sea level, Ebinur Lake is the lowest place in the Junggar Basin. The lake's water surface shrank rapidly over the last few decades because water from the Kuytun, Bortala and Jinghe rivers was diverted to newly reclaimed irrigation areas: Now water remains only in its southeastern corner. In addition, large amounts of salt and mirabilite are extracted from the water, which has an alkaline content of 14 per cent. To feed the many successful oases we saw on our journey from Urümqi, Ebinur Lake has indeed paid a huge price.

Alataw greeted us with gusts of high wind. The mountain pass is exposed to wind for 165 days each year, and nowhere else in Xinjiang is the wind so violent. No trees or even grass can survive the strong gales, therefore few people care to live here. However, Alataw is fittingly called the "Gateway to Junggar", as there is a smooth passageway 20 kilometres wide and 90 kilometres long that runs between the Alataw and Bayanhar Mountains. In the past this was a heavily guarded outpost against the former Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan across the border.

In 1990, when the northern Xinjiang railway was connected with the Turksib Railway at Alataw, the mountain pass became China's

All is tranquil and simple in Altay, the main city in northern Xinjiang (1). ▪ This lake at the edge of the great desert is indeed a godsend (2). ▪ This pair of stone sculptures, found in the grasslands of Altay, are said to be in the image of a husband and wife (3). ▪ The Ertix, China's only river to flow into the Arctic (4) ▪ The footlands of the Altay Mountains on the northern edge of the Junggar Basin are prime grazing land for Khazak herdsmen (5).

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westernmost terminal on the "Second Eurasian Continental Bridge". Seemingly overnight, the price of this piece of barren land soared. People with foresight and sagacity flocked to buy land and build houses, and new buildings, including a customs building, a railway station and banks, sprang up. People are talking about turning Alataw into a frontier city with 100,000 residents. It is certainly nobody's Utopia, for experts are already racking their brains over ways and means to tackle the water shortage and windstorms.

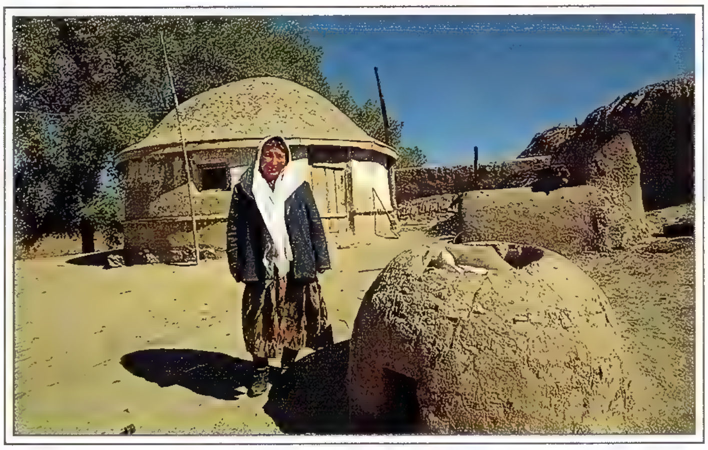
In any case, Alataw is no longer the isolated inland backwater it once was. Trains, lorries and merchants shuttle between China and Kazakhstan in a constant stream. Visitors arrive in droves to see the gateway to China, many of them on their way to or from foreign countries. The watch towers built during the years of Sino-Soviet confrontations has started receiving tourists who want to have a look at the defence works and the restricted zone which stretches for miles.

A "Ghost Town" Made by the Wind

It took us a whole day to cover the 482 kilometres from Alataw to Karamay by way of Bole and Kuytun. Karamay, whose name in Uygur means "black oil", is China's petroleum capital. The city boasts vast tracts of fields, which look barren on the surface but are rich with oil and other mineral resources underneath. Its wind-eroded landmass also embraces quite a few places of unique natural charm.

I started out in downtown Karamay in the morning along the West Ring Highway of the Junggar Basin and, 120 kilometres later, turned right onto a mountain path which led to the place where "ghosts" and "demons" supposedly live in a compact community.

There, deep in the wilderness, I saw no ghosts but did come upon numerous castle-like structures of monstrous proportions. I could hear a murmuring sound coming from the "castles", which gave the place a spooky feeling. The castles are actually square-shaped hills some 100 metres high, with smooth, natural rockfaces that look as though they were carved by some invisible hand. Most of them have overhanging cliffs, and only a few can be scaled. I found a vantage point where I had a panoramic view of the Ghost Town's 30 square kilometres of rolling hills.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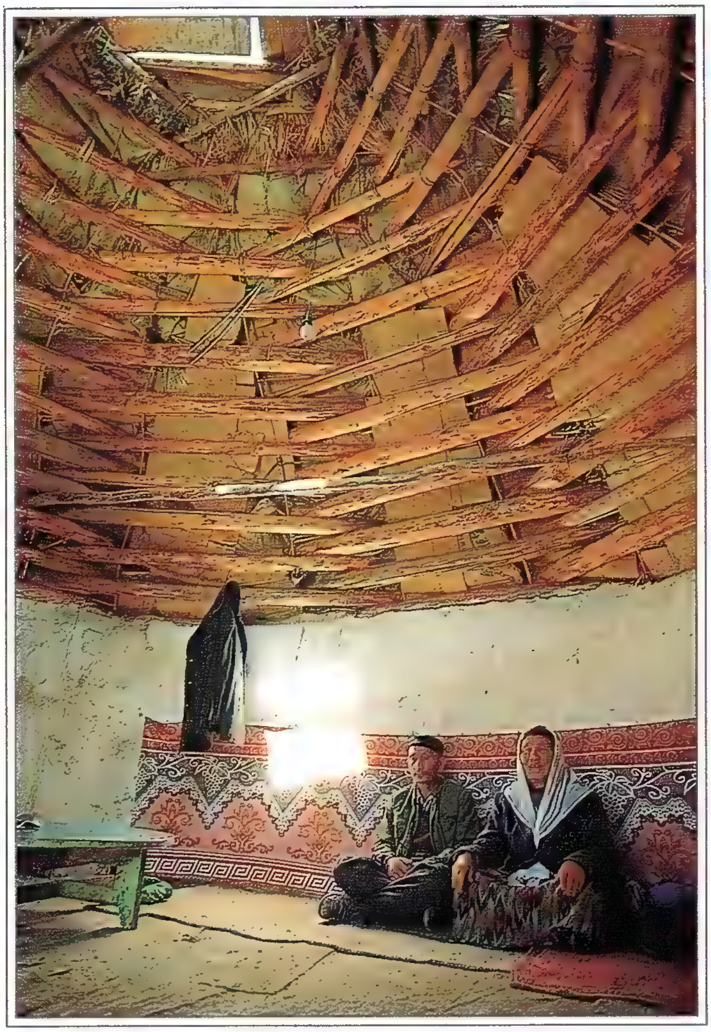
During the Cretaceous Period more than 100 million years ago, this place was a huge fresh-water lake and its banks were covered with luxuriant plants. The lake was home to dinosaurs, and the famous Junggar Winged Dinosaur (*Dsungaripterus*) was unearthed right here. Later, crustal movements converted the lake into a desert, and, as if by magic, high winds transformed the place into a land of strangely-shaped rocky mountains.

The Ghost Town is also called the "City of Wind", because winds from the western Junggar Basin gain force when they are squeezed through the narrow corridor formed by the Genghis Khan Mountain and the Karaalat Mountain. For 70 days a year the place is under the impact of strong winds, which can reach a gale force of 12 on the Beaufort Scale.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The "Pearl of Junggar" — Burulto Lake

Having driven through the desert, the steppes of Tacheng and the Hoboksar Mongolian Autonomous County, we were about to enter Fuhai County in Altay Prefecture when the highway forked off in two directions. To our left lay the road to Burqin and Habahe (Kaba), while the road to the right extended to Altay. Like most tourists, we chose the road to Altay because it is the seat of Altay Prefecture.

Fuhai is both the name of a lake and a county. Also known to the local people as Ulungur because its water is supplied by the river of the same name, it is one of the 10 largest inland lakes in China. Most lakes in the Junggar Basin have dried up, such as the Ebinur and the

3

Manas, so the bounteous Fuhai Lake is a rarity, and thus is known as the Pearl of Junggar. The fertile lakeside grassland covered with herds of grazing animals and clusters of yurts made a picture-perfect scene.

The limited water that flows from the Ulungur River is not enough to keep Fuhai Lake filled for ever, so the local people have diverted water from the Ertix River to keep the lake from meeting the same fate as its neighbours.

Following the 10-kilometre corridor along the Ulungur River, we crossed the Ertix River, passed Beitun Town and finally arrived at the city of Altay. Altay is a popular transfer point for travellers bound for the Altay Mountains, which one can reach by taxi. Those who want to save money can go first to nearby Burqin or Kaba by bus, and then take a taxi. Many visitors come all the way to Altay just to buy sapphire stones and furs, two local specialties.

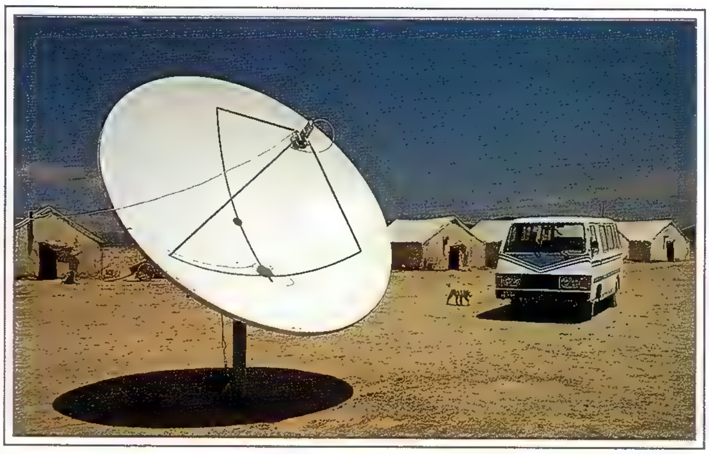
Tourists can also take advantage of their stopover in Altay to visit Hualin Park. Other spots of interest include the Stone Men on the grassland southwest of the city and the ancient cliff paintings in a gully in Hongdun Township.

A Natural Museum of Art Treasures

Cliff paintings are a widespread sight on the southern side of the Altay Mountains. Most of them, drawn long, long ago, feature images from everyday of life on the grasslands. Animals, due to their close relationship with nomads, are a frequent subject matter. Phallicism is also portrayed in these ancient paintings.

At a place about 20 kilometres from the city proper, we saw stone sculptures of people standing or lying by graves enclosed by piles of black stones. We also often saw pieces of granite protruding here and there from the earth's surface. When we split the stones open, we saw bluish crystalline pellets glistening in the cross-sections. These are sappire stones, but one has to be lucky to find pieces large enough to be of any value.

The northern part of the Junggar Basin ends at the southern foot of the Altay Mountains. The wide strip of steppe below the mountains provides a passageway for those entering the mountains from Burqin or Kaba. The Kaba-Burqin Highway is sandwiched between the snow-covered wooded Altay ranges to the north and the turbulent Ertix River to the south.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The wind-eroded topography is most evident along the Ertix Valley. The hills on the banks have a semi-transparent quartz surface and assume strange shapes and colours, such as bright ochre and cinnabar-red. Because of the abundance of quartz, the grassland here is called a "White Pastureland".

To build one of these yurt-shaped houses, the roof has to be specially designed (1). ■ *The Khazaks who man this animal-protection station at Karamali have modelled their houses after the traditional yurt, which has an oven in front (2).* ■ *In autumn, herdsmen are already moving to winter grazing grounds in the Ertix and Ulungur river valleys (3).* ■ *State Highway 216 brings a touch of modernity to the wilds of the Junggar Basin (4, by Song Shijing).* ■ *Mongolian gazelles, native to this desert, seem little disturbed by the advent of civilization as they gallop across the newly built highway (5).*

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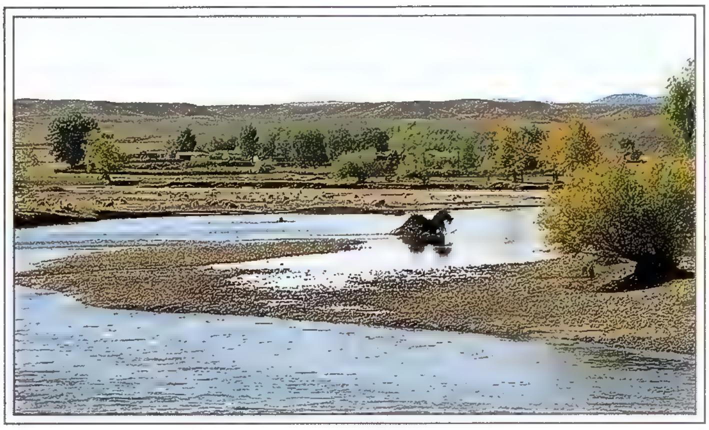
The Ertix River orginates in the Altay Mountains and meanders its way for 546 kilometres through Xinjiang before crossing the border and emptying itself into Zajsan Lake in Kazakhstan. It then flows on through Siberia, merges with the Ob River and joins the Arctic Ocean in the north. The Ertix is the only river in China that connects up with the Arctic water system, and the only river in Xinjiang to flow into the sea.

More Gazelles than People Along State Highway 216

Having finished our journey along the western rim of the Junggar Basin, we turned east and followed the road that runs parallel to the Ertix River. Along the way we passed herdsmen searching the river valley for winter grazing grounds for their herds. I saw mirages so frequently that soon they ceased to amaze me anymore.

The road after Fuyun became much straighter, its asphalt surface so smooth and shiny that the azure sky tinged it a deep blue. This was State Highway 216, which had only recently been opened to traffic. After spending the night in the county seat of Koktokay, our route took a southward tack. Not a single human settlement could be seen anywhere; actually I saw more Mongolian gazelles than people along the way.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This 326-kilometre highway, which has yet to be drawn on maps, threads its way through a hoary wilderness seldom touched by civilization. Only with the advent of the highway did the engineering corps build some houses on the roadside, after which nomadic Khazak herdsmen started moving closer to it.

Qahurt, where the highway crosses the Ulungur River, was the only residential centre we saw. A new gas station had been built there, the only one of its kind on the entire highway. Leaving Qahurt, we found ourselves back in the embrace of the wilderness again. We spotted more Mongolian gazelles drinking from roadside pools left by the construction corps. They were timid animals: The moment they saw a vehicle they immediately galloped away. Only with the help of a zoom lens could I capture them on film. It turned out that we had entered Xinjiang's nature reserve for hooved animals.

Przewalskii's Horse Worth a Fortune

Our map showed that we were in a vertical rectangle in the eastern part of the Junggar Basin, a nature reserve whose 170 hectares span Altay Prefecture and the Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture. The reserve is home to several animals under first-class State protection — wild horses, wild asses, and Saiga antelopes — and two under second-class State protection — argalis sheep and goitred gazelles. However, we saw only a few antelopes, and to see wild horses and asses one needs to venture deeper into the reserve.

A Xinjiang Wild Horse Breeding Centre has been built with the financial support of the World Wide Fund for Nature in Santai Town in Changji Prefecture in the southern part of the desert. The wild horses raised on this 600-hectare establishment are regarded as national treasures.

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Called Przewalskii's horses, they are native to Xinjiang and Mongolia, but they met their extinction in both places earlier this century. Foreign explorers caught some of them and brought them to their own countries in the 19th century. Now, eight or nine generations later, only a little more than 400 such horses are alive in Germany, Britain and some former Soviet republics. Three groups of them have been sent back to their native land and put in this reserve. Today, a single Przewalskii's horse is worth US$250,000. Some of them have gone through a period of rehabilitation and have been left to roam the desert near Wucaiwan.

From the stretch of State Highway 216 close to Huoshao Mountain, a mountain path branches out in the direction of Wucaiwan in Jimsar County. The path is so bumpy a jeep is needed to reach the bay. Wucaiwan (Bay of Many Colours) is a general term for Xinjiang's many rainbow-coloured wind-eroded landforms like the one we saw in Urho. In the remote past, the great desert in the southeastern part of Junggar was a large lake. The strong winds caused unusual changes to Jimsar by turning its lake-formed rock strata into this colourful "bay".

The bay is situated on the upper reaches of the Shaqui River, more than 100 kilometres northwest of the county seat of Jimsar. Having seen nothing but the monotonous grey tones of the desert for so long, I cheered up the moment I set eyes on the brilliant colours of this remarkable landscape. It is composed of different hues of mudstone: deep red, brown, blue, green, yellow, grey, black and white. The wind and rain have carved the land into a mass of isolated hills in strange shapes that resemble pyramids, haystacks, castles, towers, terraces and so on. Scattered about the colourful slopes were agate stones, palaeontological fossils and agatized wood.

Fossils a Legacy of Pre-Historic Junggar

Agatized wood refers to fossils of ancient trees. The site with the largest number of such fossils is Shimu (Stone Tree) Gully in the desert near Qitai County. We reached the gully via a narrow trail that branched off Highway 216. The ground was strewn with fossilized

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trees. When tapped, they rang like iron; to the touch they felt like stone. All bore the unmistakable texture of wood, and still retained their original shape as tree trunks. Some were broken, and others propped each other up.

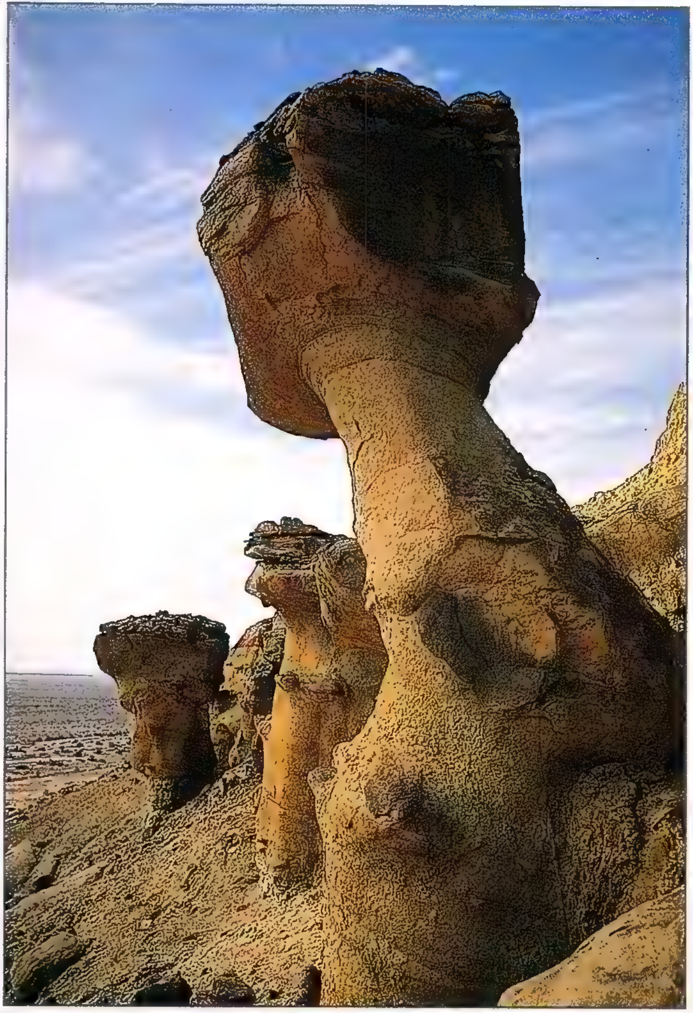
Nature has indeed worked wonders in this place, which makes one feel one has stepped back into pre-historic times. Near Stone Tree Gully there is another Ghost Town, different from the first one we saw. This one seemed to deserve its name more, as some of the pieces were shaped like heads or bodies, and looked ghostly indeed.

Having left the land of wildlife and "ghosts", we crossed the south-eastern part of the Gurbantünggüt Desert and Huoshao Mountain, and returned back to the Tianshan Mountain Range. Bogda Peak was enveloped in drifting clouds and stood towering over the other peaks. A silver moon shone above as bright as the setting sun. Our car left State Highway 216 and started heading west, signalling that our adventure-filled journey through the desert was drawing to an end. Solemnly I drew a red line on my map.

Soon we were back in the world of vehicles and people once again. Smoke drifting up from chimneys covered the blue sky in a grey pall. Factories and buildings increased in number and before long we had returned to Urümqi. Our journey along the rim of the Junggar Basin had come full circle.

Translated by Ling Yuan

These fossilized trees in the desert north of Qitai still have the shapes of trees, but the elements have long turned them into stone (1, by Song Shijing). ■ Qahurt, located where State Highway 216 crosses the Ulungur River, is a vast oasis (2). ■ Przewalskii's horses under special care at the Karamali Nature Reserve (3, by Zhao Cheng'an) ■ The rocks near Qitai County are said to resemble ghosts and demons (4, by Song Shijing). ■ This colourful place near Jimsar County is called the "Bay of Many Colours", but it has another, spookier, name of "Ghost Town" (5, by Song Shijing).



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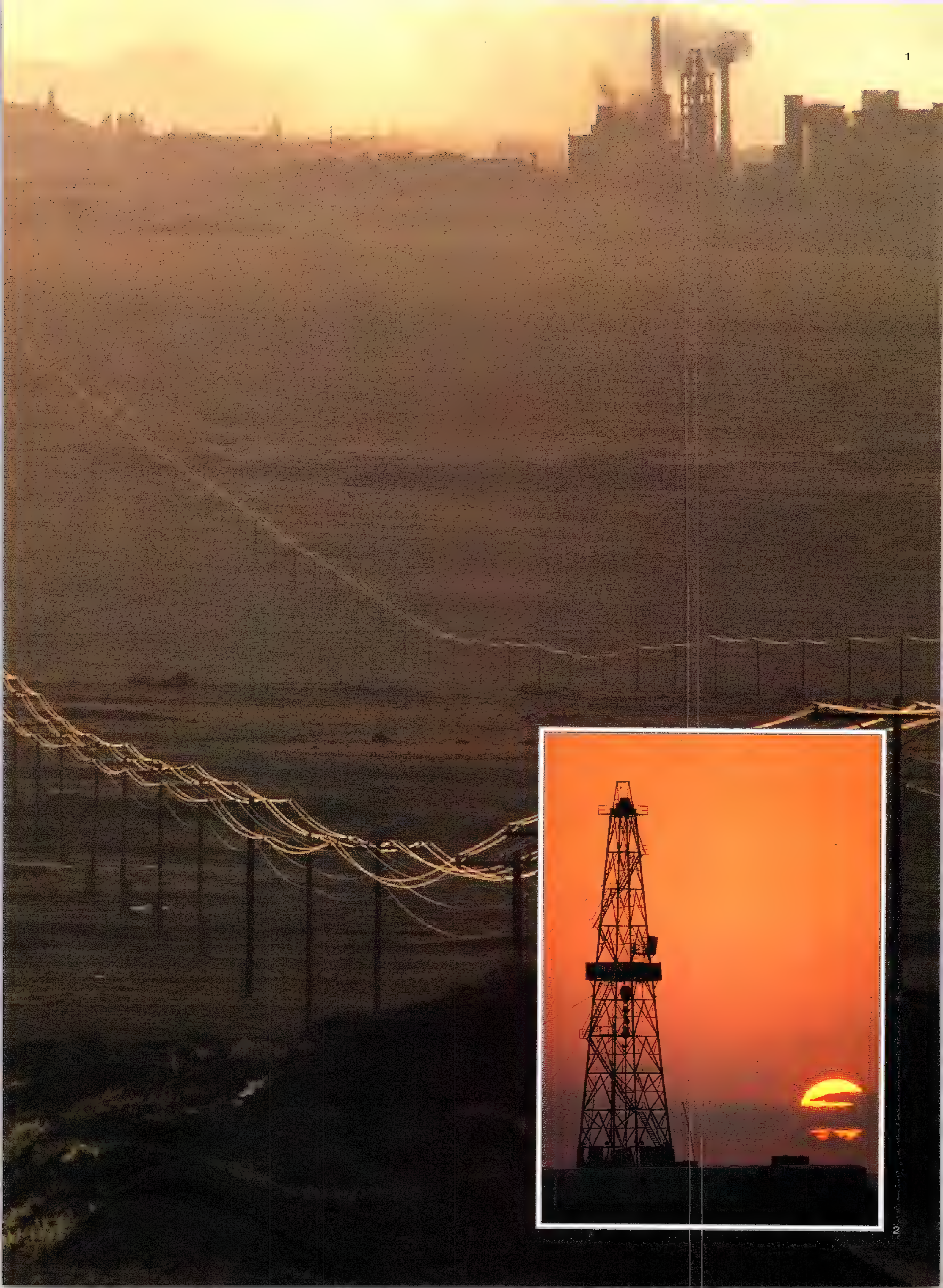
Returning to the modern, industrial world after travelling along the rim of the Junggar Basin, one cannot help but yearn for the stark simplicity of the vast desert (1). ■ *A drilling rig at the Zhundong Oil Field (2, by Song Shijing)*



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A Brief Introduction to the (Group) Corp.

Having grown out of Guangdong Animal By-Products Imp. & Exp. Corp., which has an import and export trade history of 43 years, the Guangdong Animal By-Products Imp. & Exp. (Group) Corp. has formed an international marketing network with more than 500 customers all over the world and 5 foreign companies in America, Germany and Hong Kong. The corporation had an import and export trade value reaching over 200 million US Dollars in 1992, being one of the ten largest export corporations in Guangdong Province. Having established 26 factories to supply top quality products for companies in China, the corporation introduced advanced equipment in the 1980's for shoe-making, garment-making and down-washing. Furthermore, the carpets, down products, down garments and leather garments managed by the corporation have won international prestige.

Guangdong Animal By-Products Imp. & Exp. (Group) Corp. consists of 15 companies and 41 membership enterprises. It engages in the import and export of leather, fur garments, carpets, cases & bags, shoes, feathers, brushes, rabbit hair & glue, down, casings & foodstuffs, native produce, light industrial products, cereals, oils & foodstuffs, textiles, garments, artex, ceramics, arts & crafts, metals & minerals, chemicals, medicine & health information, real estate development and diet services. It also engages in joint ventures, cooperation, processing with imported materials supplied by the buyers, processing with samples, assembling with supplied components, compensation trade, the introduction of foreign capital, etc.

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The lakeside area makes ideal grazing (by Yan Xingmin).

More than 90 metres deep at its deepest place, the water of Sayram Lake is a brilliant shade of blue (by Chan Yat Nin).

Large: *Being over 2,000 metres above sea level, Sayram Lake has an average temperature of 5 ˚C (by Yan Xingmin).*

The Clear Blue Waters of Sayram Lake

ARTICLE BY TIAN FU

It is said that Qiu Chuji (1148-1227), a renowned Taoist monk of the Yuan Dynasty, was invited one year by his friend Genghis Khan to pay a visit to Samarkand in Central Asia. To reach Samarkand, he took the ancient Silk Road north of the Tianshan Mountain Range. All along the way he was overwhelmed by the region's natural beauty, which helped take his mind off the many hardships of the journey such as bitter cold, sandstorms, hunger and thirst. He was especially enraptured by Sayram Lake, which he named "Heavenly Pool" for its incredibly clear blue colour.

Sayram Lake, whose name in the Khazak language means "happiness", is located in the far northwestern corner of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, near the city of Yining. The area surrounding Sayram Lake is rich in limestone, and this in part is what gives the lake its exceptional qualities. The subterranean water and the water oozing from crevices dissolves huge quantities of calcium carbonate, which make the lake water as blue as sapphire and so crystal clear that you can see right through to the sandy bottom.

Each season brings a different atmosphere to this lake. In wintertime, when the northeasterly winds whip up waves on the lake, the spray can sometimes reach a height of three metres. And when the winter fog envelops the broad lake, you can scarcely see the snow-capped mountains opposite. If you visit the area in spring, you will be greeted by countless flowers blooming on the mountain slopes. Summer and autumn, however, are the best seasons for coming to Sayram Lake. In the early morning the vast lake is as smooth as a mirror, and by mid-day is bustling with activity.

Around the 15th day of the seventh lunar month of every year, the Mongolian herdsmen living nearby hold their Nadam Fair. During the fair, Mongolian and Khazak herdsmen from neighbouring grasslands come to the lakeside and set up stalls to do trade. There are also traditional

Mongolian and Khazak herdsmen from the surrounding grasslands flock to the Nadam Fair to do trade (by Song Shijing).

Horses are a common sight around Sayram Lake (by Song Shijing).

Around the 15th day of the seventh lunar month of each year, the Mongolians hold their Nadam Fair on the shores of the lake (by Yan Xingmin).

horse races, events such as Sheep Grabbing, wrestling, playing music, singing and dancing. Horse-racing is a reminder to the Mongolians of the westward conquest of Genghis Khan in the 13th century, who ordered his army to open a road to the Ili Plain, where Sayram Lake is located.

One legend about Sayram Lake says that thousands of years ago, the area was a fertile grassland. A beautiful maiden named Qiedan lived here, and fell in love with a young horse herder. Sadly for the ill-fated couple, the Demon King took a fancy to the girl and sent a pack of monsters to carry her away. Qiedan stealthily escaped back to the grassland, but was pursued by the Demon King and jumped into a deep pool. Her young lover came to her rescue and defeated the Demon King, only to find her corpse at the bottom of the pool. Heartbroken, the young man too jumped into the pool. Soon torrents of water gushed out of the pool, drowning the Demon King and his palace. The tears of the pair of young lovers formed Sayram Lake.

Of course, there is another, more prosaic reason for the birth of this lake. Geologically speaking, it was created by the movement of the Himalayan Mountains which took place on the Eurasian continent about 70 million years ago. Situated 2,073 metres above sea level, Sayram Lake now covers an area of 457 square kilometres, measuring 30 kilometres from north to south and over 20 kilometres from east to west, with a maximum depth of about 90 metres.

Due to the high altitude and cold climate, the average temperature of the lake is just 5℃. For nearly half the year the lake is ice-bound, thus for millennia no fish or other life forms have been able to survive here. Undisturbed by both man and beast, Sayram Lake remains as it has been for centuries: placid, serene and timeless in its beauty.

Translated by Ann Yan

Mongolian herdsmen on their way to the Nadam Fair (by Yan Xingmin).

Khazak herdsmen take part in camel races at the Nadam Fair (by Sun Jiabin).

There are many Russian-style houses in Korgas, showing the influence of different cultures.

Most of the people passing through Customs are traders from the Commonwealth of Independent States (by Sun Jiabin).

Trade at the Sino-Kazakhstani Border

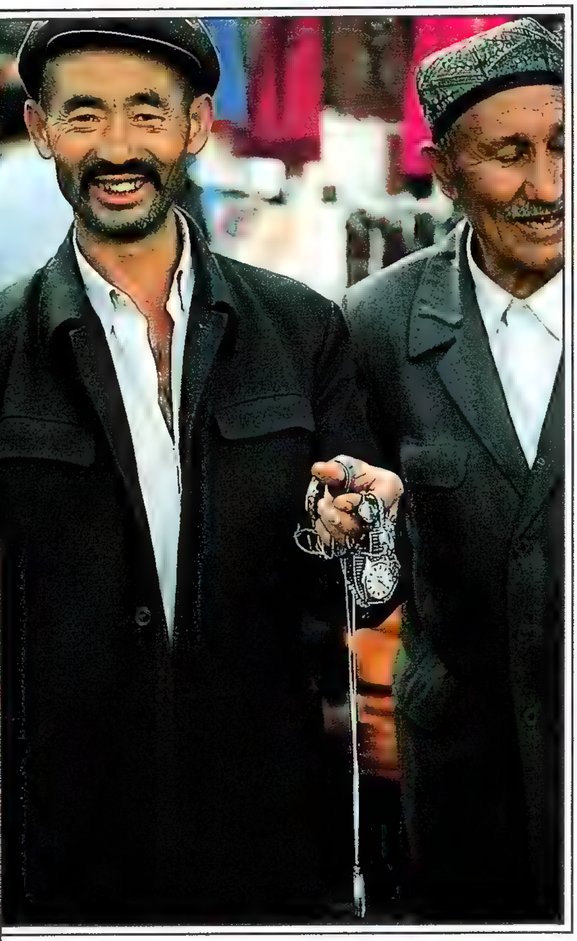
— A Visit to Korgas and Yining

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

Top: *Goods in big bags are carried by porters or transported by horse-carriages at the border market in Korgas.*
Bottom: *In a trading market in Yining, a local retailer is negotiating with a foreign merchant (centre).*
Facing page, bottom: *The goods yard in Korgas is even larger than the town itself.*

People on their way to the bazaar at Yining (by Liang Feng)

Soviet army watches are top sellers.



Merchants from the CIS transport the goods that they have bought from the market to the hotel for storage before shipping them by lorries to their own country, where they will fetch a tidy sum.

Before we started our trip to the Ili Khazak Autonomous Prefecture in northeastern Xinjiang, we had expected to see sights such as the spectacular Guozi Gully, the Künes Grassland and the green fields of the Ili River Basin. We were quite surprised, therefore, when we found that, besides these places, Ili was also home to two bustling centres of trade and activity: the major city of Yining and the smaller border town of Korgas.

A Long History of Trade in Korgas

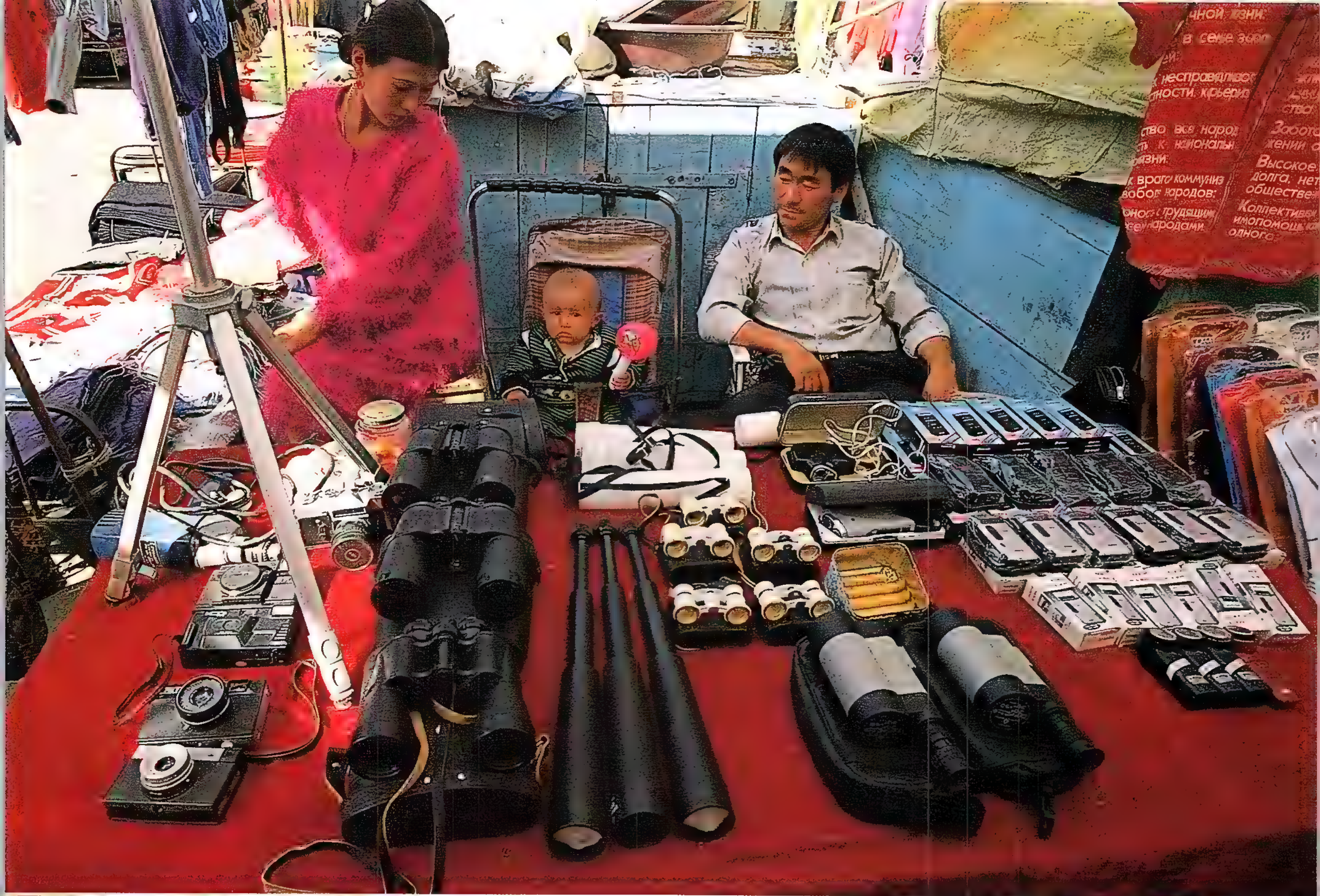
Travelling past Sayram Lake, through Guozi Gully and over the northern Tianshan Mountains, we came to a fork in the road called Qingshuihezi. The road on the right led to Korgas, and the road on the left led to Huocheng and Yining. Like most tourists, we decided to turn right, eager to see Korgas, the "gateway to China".

Though Korgas became known only after the normalization of Sino-Soviet relations a few years ago, it once held an important place in this region. As early as the 13th century, it was a major passage linking East and West. Due to the fertile land found in the Ili River Basin, Genghis Khan's second son Chagatai (?-1242) took Alimali near Korgas as the capital of the Khan. Later, the Yuan-dynasty Emperor Kublai Khan (r.1260-1294) again took Alimali as the provincial capital. During the reign of the Qing Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795), when the "Nine Towns of Ili" were constructed, Gonghuo City, one of the nine, was built at Korgas. After 1881 when the Sino-Russian Ili Treaty was signed, which defined the Korgas River as marking the border of China and Russia, Korgas began developing as a major trading port. It was still a busy place in the 1950s, but in 1970 the border was closed and the city became obscure almost overnight.

In 1983, the border was re-opened. Particularly after China started allowing border trade with Kazakhstan on the other side of the river, Korgas started to become a trade centre once again. Both sides have also opened up to international tourists. In 1989, a regular cross-national bus began to run between Yining and the town of Panfilov in Kazakhstan, making Korgas again a gateway from Asia to Europe. Since then, tourists have been coming thick and fast.

From Qingshuihezi to Korgas, lorries and buses filled the 30-kilometre-long road. If we had not known our location, we never would have guessed we were in a deserted border region. When we arrived at Korgas we did not stop at the small town itself, which was enshrouded in dust from the many construction sites, but headed directly towards the border station. The so-called "gateway to China" is actually a bridge across the Korgas River, with Kazakhstan opposite. It is nearly 400 kilometres from here to Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, nearer than from here to Urümqi. At the immigration and customs check points, the people coming and going had similar features but wore different clothes, depending on which side they came from. There were also people from the other countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States who were recognizable by their blonde or brown hair. Every year tens of thousands of tourists from Kazakhstan and other CIS countries come to visit Ili, and most of them enter China from this point.

Actually, they are not tourists at all but traders who bring in goods from their home country and take back Chinese goods, making a tidy profit. In recent years, there has been high inflation on the other side of the bridge and the prices of non-Chinese products are now much higher there than in China. Therefore a reverse tide of trade has begun, with people from the other side coming across to buy back their own goods and take them back to sell in their home country.



Top: *Russian-made telescopes and other Russian military souvenirs are in great demand.*
Bottom: *Well-tailored Russian-style overcoats*

Taxilaipukai Market is one of the major trading centres in Yining.

The Ili Guesthouse used to be the Russian consulate, and this bronze bust of Lenin still stands today.

This Uygur girl has learned how to do business at a young age, although she still has to take care of her baby sister.

The thriving trade taking place in Korgas can best be seen at the market south of the border station. It was late in the afternoon when we arrived, but there were still streams of horses and lorries pouring in and out. At five o'clock when the market closed, there were still big crowds of people, horse-carriages and lorries in front of the gate.

The residential area of Korgas is not very large, and most of the people living there have come from other places. Even the goods yard outside of the town was much larger than the residential area. Many tall buildings were under construction, however, therefore there is no doubt that the town will see rapid development. Since all the hotels were full that night, we had to hurry to Yining 90 kilometres away to find accommodation.

The Bustling Markets of Yining

We got up early the next morning and, inhaling the fresh air, we felt the tranquillity of the "Garden City" of Yining. We stayed at a place called the Ili Guesthouse, which used to be the consulate of the Soviet Union in Ili. In the courtyard, trees and flowers grew everywhere. A bronze bust of Lenin was still standing, living the life of an "immigrant". It was interesting to note that most of the lodgers in the guesthouse these days were traders from Lenin's home country.

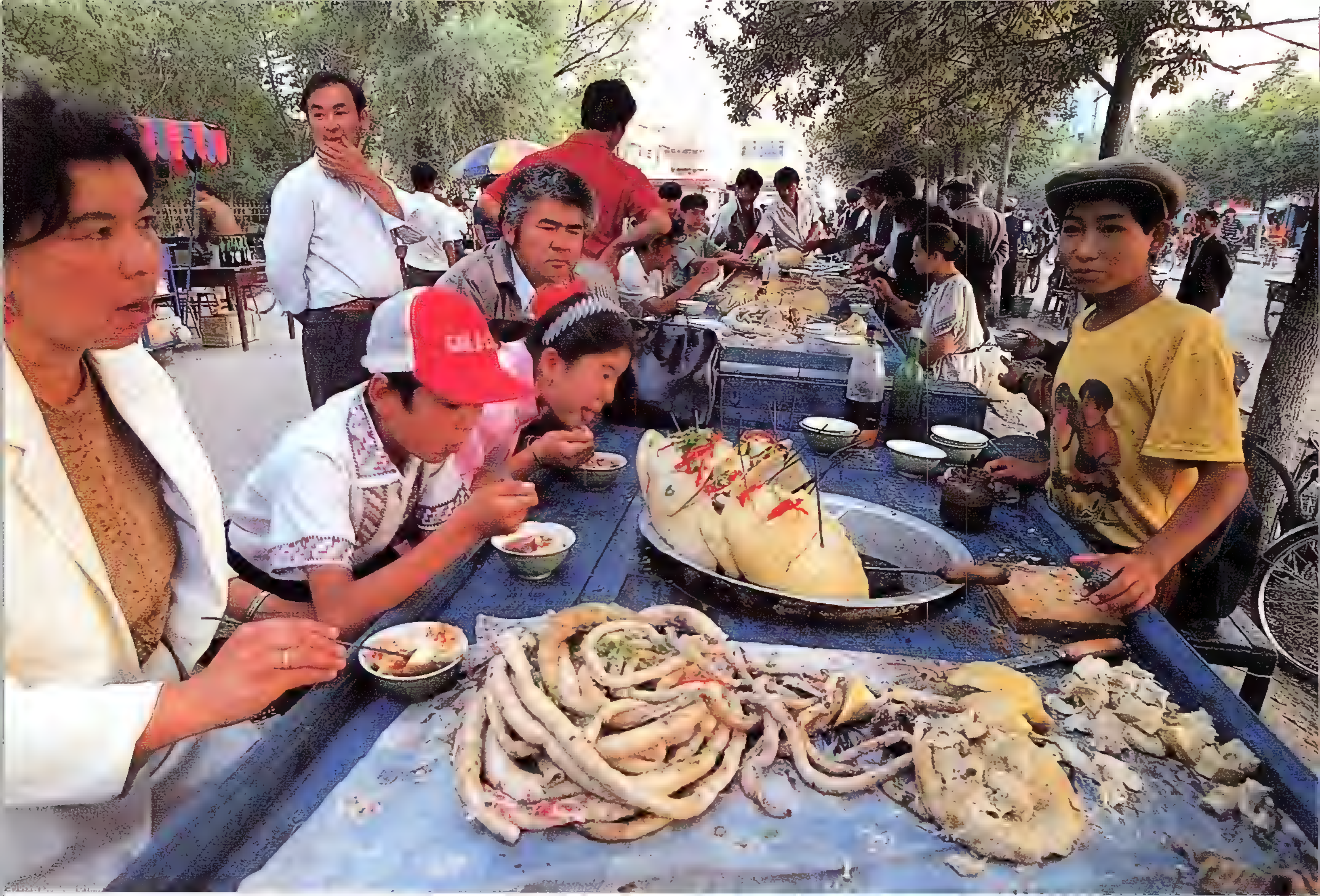
One "must" for visitors to Yining is a trip to the Ili River, which we toured in a leisure boat. Then we went to the old city of Huiyuan, 30 kilometres to the west of Yining, to visit the General's Mansion in Ili, which used to be the supreme military and governmental organization of the Qing court in Xinjiang. A group of ancient structures including a bell tower and a drum tower were still standing.

In 1757, the Qing government suppressed the Junggar Rebellion, and five years later appointed a general to govern the southern and northern parts of the Tianshan Mountains to the east and south of Balkhash Lake (in today's Kazakhstan). Huiyuan City was constructed first, followed by the famous "Nine Towns of Ili". After that, this place began to grow more prosperous, as it was a vital link between China and the states in central Asia. History books tell us that in Yining back then, "shops lined the streets, goods were piled high and the market was thriving".

The once prosperous Huiyuan City no longer exists except in historical records, however it was replaced by Yining, which is much larger than Huiyuan ever was. People coming both from Korgas and from central China gather in this border city, forming an endless stream of visitors and goods. In the prosperous streets of Yining, there were several markets for foreign and Chinese retailers. Hundreds of pedlars were competing for business in a medley of languages: Uygur, Khazak, Mandarin, Russian and others. The Chinese merchants especially welcomed Russian-speaking buyers, who purchased clothes, articles of daily use and cosmetics. They would often buy items like towels and rubber shoes, not by the piece but in big bags or even dozens of big bags, once they saw that the quality was good and the prices reasonable. They would then hire carts to transport their goods back home.

Our interest was especially picqued by the stalls selling goods from Russia and Eastern Europe. We looked at Russian-made telescopes, cameras which could still be used and were valuable collector's items, military medals, army watches and other military souvenirs from the former Soviet Union, as well as well-tailored fur coats. We were told however, that the prices were higher than they used to be, and there were fewer exceptional goods due to the wave of new collectors. Times were indeed changing in this booming city, but the feeling of being on a new frontier has definitely not.

Translated by M.Q.



Top: This snack bar on the side of the road in Yining serves local food such as sausages and sheep lungs. Bottom: A new restaurant in Yining, its mirrored wall reflecting the beautiful woods opposite.

A Tourist Guide to Northern Xinjiang

ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, covering an area of 1.6 million square kilometres, is China's largest administrative unit. Occupying one-sixth of the country's total territory, it boasts diverse topography and varied scenery. The distribution of the 13 main nationalities that live in Xinjiang is largely determined by the natural conditions of the lands. All three routes* of the ancient Silk Road once passed through Xinjiang, thus there is much to see of historical interest.

This region is so vast that one would usually have to spend several months to see it all. Most visitors to Xinjiang, therefore, include only parts of the region in their itineraries at one time. The northern Xinjiang section outlined in this issue is suitable for a trip of two weeks or more, depending on your interest.

Geographical Conditions

Xinjiang is customarily divided into the northern part and the southern part, according to its geographical features. The five main topographic units are the Altay Mountains, the Junggar Basin, the Tianshan Mountain Range, the Tarim Basin and the Kunlun Mountain Range. The ridge of the Tianshan Mountains, which are located in the centre of the five, is the natural line of demarcation between northern and southern Xinjiang. In its administrative division, northern Xinjiang includes the cities of Urümqi, Karamay, Shihezi, the Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture, the Ili Khazak Autonomous Prefecture and the Bortala Mongol Autonomous Prefecture.

The Tianshan Mountain Range is actually composed of three roughly parallel mountain systems, namely, the Northern Tianshan, the Central Tianshan and the Southern Tianshan. The area north of the line extending horizontally from Hami in the east to Ili in the west belongs to the Northern Tianshan Mountains. Although separated only by a mountain ridge, the topography, climatic conditions and local produce of the two sections are quite different. The average temperature in northern Xinjiang is lower than in the south, and some valleys in the western part of northern Xinjiang are passageways for cold and humid airstreams which are carried in by westerly winds. These airstreams bring the area plentiful rain and snow, thus the precipitation in northern Xinjiang is higher than in the south.

As a result, the scenery in northern Xinjiang obviously differs from that of its counterpart in the south. In the north the mountainous areas are covered with dense forests; the basins and valleys with luxurant grasslands. The northern slope of the Tianshan Mountains, the southern slope of the Altay Mountains, as well as Sawuer Mountain and Barkol Mountain are dotted with snow-capped peaks, forests, rivers and grasslands with grazing cattle and sheep. Apart from its beautiful landscape, northern Xinjiang is also a place where glaciers can be seen all year round. The strong westerly winds sweeping through the valleys have created many strangely-shaped rocks and eroded landforms.

The grasslands in northern Xinjiang serve as grazing pastures for the Khazak and the Mongolian peoples, who are the main nomadic tribes of Xinjiang. Here travellers can observe the customs and life styles of these unique communities.

The route from Hami via Jimsar and Ili to the Middle East, is the northern route of the Silk Road. The trunk of this route runs straight through northern Xinjiang, thus many historical relics have been found along its path. The best-known of these sites are the Ruins of Beiting Ancient City in Jimsar and the Ruins of Huihu Temple in Gaochang. Also worth a visit are the ancient city and ancient tombs in the southern suburbs of Urümqi, and the Alimali Ancient City in Huocheng. Compared with southern Xinjiang, which is largely desert, the north has much more to offer the visitor.

Transportation

Urümqi, the capital of Xinjiang, is the transportation hub for the whole region. Being located in the centre of Asia, it is also a stopover point for those travelling between Asia and Europe.

There are flights linking Urümqi with Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Xi'an and Shenzhen, as well as the important cities within the region such as Yining, Altay, Fuyun and Karamay in the north and Kashi, Aksu, Korla, Hotan, Kuqa and Qiemo in the south. The Lanzhou-Xinjiang Railway runs across the region, from the Turpan Basin in the south to Urümqi, and then on to Kazakhstan via Shihezi, Usu, Jinghe and Alataw Pass.

However, travelling by bus is the most popular form of transport for tourists in northern Xinjiang. The Tianshan Highway is not only the main route to Ili and southern Xinjiang, but is also the route which passes snow-capped mountains and lush valleys, providing wonderful sights for passengers.

The Tianshan Highway has many branches, with the main routes as follows:

- Urümqi-Toksun is the start of the general route to southern Xinjiang, and passes through Dabancheng;
- Urümqi-Korla is 280 kilometres long and passes through Shengli Daban, Balguntay and Hejing. This route also leads to the No. 1 Glacier in the Tianshan Mountains and to Bayanbulak Swan Lake;
- Dushanzi-Kuqa is 560 kilometres long and runs through the Borohoro and Narat mountains. Like the Urümqi-Korla route, this route links up the Junggar and Tarim basins. The scenery along the way is magnificent, and one can visit the Narat Grassland, the Bayanbulak Grassland and Ghost Valley en route;
- Jinhe-Yining is the western section of the Urümqi-Yining route and skirts Sayram Lake. The section of this route from Guozi Gully to the Ili River Valley is especially beautiful;
- Yining-Balguntay runs eastward along the Künes River and passes the northern edge of the Youledus Basin. This route connects up the Ili area to the Tarim Basin. Scenic spots along the way include the Narat Grassland;

- Yining - Zhaosu just to the south passes through Qapqar and the Central Tianshan Mountain. One can tour the Zhaosu Grassland on the way.

Along the Tianshan Highway there are several *dabans*, or mountain passes, which usually lie at high altitudes on or near the snow line, so the visitor should be sure to be prepared for the cold weather there.

All the cities and county seats in Xinjiang are accessible by bus. However, since there are also scenic spots worth a visit off the bus routes, one can hire a taxi for the trip. If you wish to take a road that is off the main route to mountainous areas, forests, grasslands or deserts, a jeep is the most suitable means of transport.

Tourist Seasons and Climate

The tourist season in northern Xinjiang is shorter than that of southern Xinjiang. June to September is the peak period, and one month before and after this time are also popular times for travel. Spring in Xinjiang's highlands begins in May but differs according to the altitude. In June and July one can see flowers in full bloom everywhere on the highland meadows, thus this is the best season for tourism. In mid-July on the summer pastures where the Mongolians reside, such as the banks of Sayram Lake, the Nadam Fair is held, while in the Khazak nomadic areas, activities such as horse racing, "Sheep Grabbing" and "Girl Chasing" are performed on festive occasions. However, because the Islamic festivals — such as the Lesser Bairam and Corban — are celebrated according to the Islamic calendar, which has 10 to 11 days fewer than the Gregorian calendar, the visitor should inquire about the specific dates before arranging a trip to see these festivals.

Autumn is the most beautiful season in the mountain forests, but the so-called "golden autumn" is short: only 10 days from the time when the leaves turn gold to when they fall off the trees. It is difficult to fix the starting day of this time because it varies from latitude to latitude. For example, in the Kanas area in the Altay Mountains, "golden autumn" usually falls in mid-September, but just two weeks after this, all the tourist facilities in the area close down, as winter has already begun and the mountain passes are sealed off.

Winter tours are usually arranged either before or during December, or after February. However, even in the summertime one can explore the No. 1 Glacier for a "snow and ice" tour of the Tianshan Mountains, located 100 kilometres from Urümqi. For a trip to northern Xinjiang, warm clothes should be brought even in the height of summer, because it is common to cross mountain passes where autumn clothing is needed. If it is spring or autumn, one has to wear winter clothes in the morning and evening. For a trip to a place at a high altitude in the Tianshan or Altay mountains, one can see snow and ice even in September. The temperatures there can drop to below 0 °C at night.

Food and Accommodation in Pasture Areas

Facilities are the best in the southern part of northern Xinjiang. Urümqi boasts a number of good hotels and restaurants where one can find various types of cuisine from all parts of the country. However, in the places below the level of prefectural and county seats, Muslim food composed essentially of sheep and spicy dishes is predominant. For those who are not used to these types of foods, rations such as canned food and fruit should be prepared in advance.

For a trip to sparsely populated areas such as Kanas and the eastern Junggar Basin, one can bring freshly baked *nang* cakes for a two or three day journey in addition to canned food and fruit.

Xinjiang's fruits and melons look very tempting, but you are advised not to eat your fill. According to experienced travellers, having a suitable amount of fruit or melons can help one cope with the arid climate of Xinjiang, but one can suffer from excessive internal heat if they eat too many Hami melons. In addition, to prevent diarrhoea, you should not drink water immediately after eating grapes, which are one of the local specialities. There is no harm in eating plenty of watermelons or tomatoes.

In Xinjiang's main cities of Yining, Karamay, Kuytun, Bole and Altay, medium-standard hotels are available, but for accommodation in smaller towns and certain tourist spots, facilities are comparatively inadequate. In the Narat Grassland there are yurts provided by travel services from May to September, and at Heavenly Lake and West Poplar Gully at Southern Hill there are hostels and yurts provided by the local Khazak people. From June to September, mobile wooden houses and yurts are available on the banks of Sayram Lake and from May to September, similar accommodations are provided by travel reception stations on the banks of Kanas Lake. Simple Muslim food is offered in all the above-mentioned places. Although food and lodging are less comfortable at these tourist sites, one can experience personally the feeling of living in the wilderness and better understand the life style of the nomadic people who make their home on the pastures.

Translated by K.V. Ku

**The ancient Silk Road in Xinjiang is roughly divided into three routes: the central, the southern and the northern. The central route refers to the one which skirts the northern rim of the Tarim Basin, passing Hami, Turpan, Korla, Kuqa and Aksu, and then either converging with the southern route at Kashi or crossing the Tianshan Mountains to Kazakhstan. The southern route goes from Dunhuang in Gansu Province westward along the southern edge of the Tarim Basin, passing Ruoqiang, Qiemo, Hotan, Shache, Kashi and the Pamirs to Afghanistan, or from Kashi westward across the southern section of the Tianshan Mountains to Kazakhstan. The northern route is the one going westward along the northern slope of the Tianshan Mountains, passing through Hami, Balkun, Mori, Jimsar, Urümqi, Usu and Huocheng, then along the Ili River valley to Kazakhstan.*

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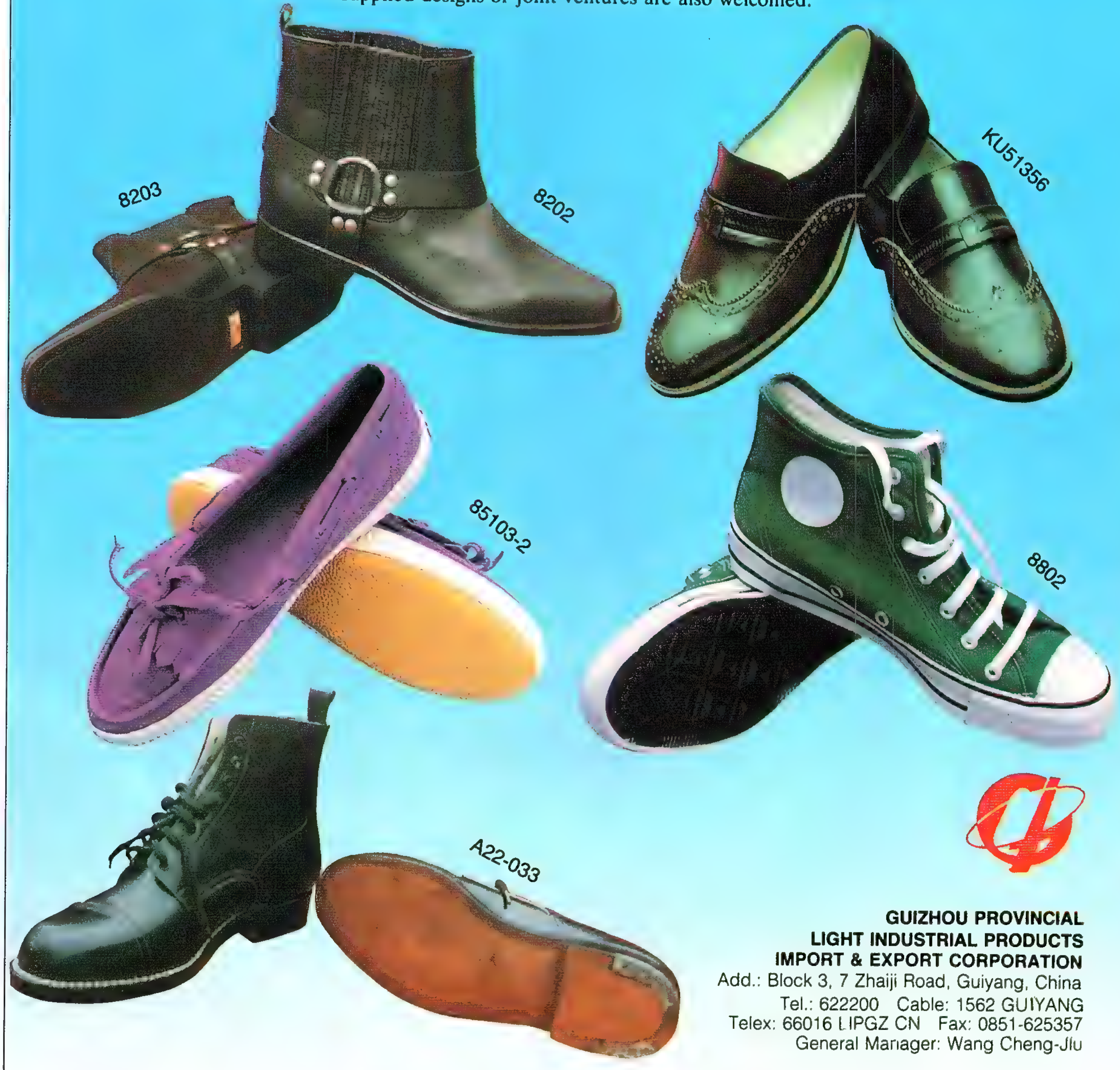

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A Collector of Tibetan Folk Art

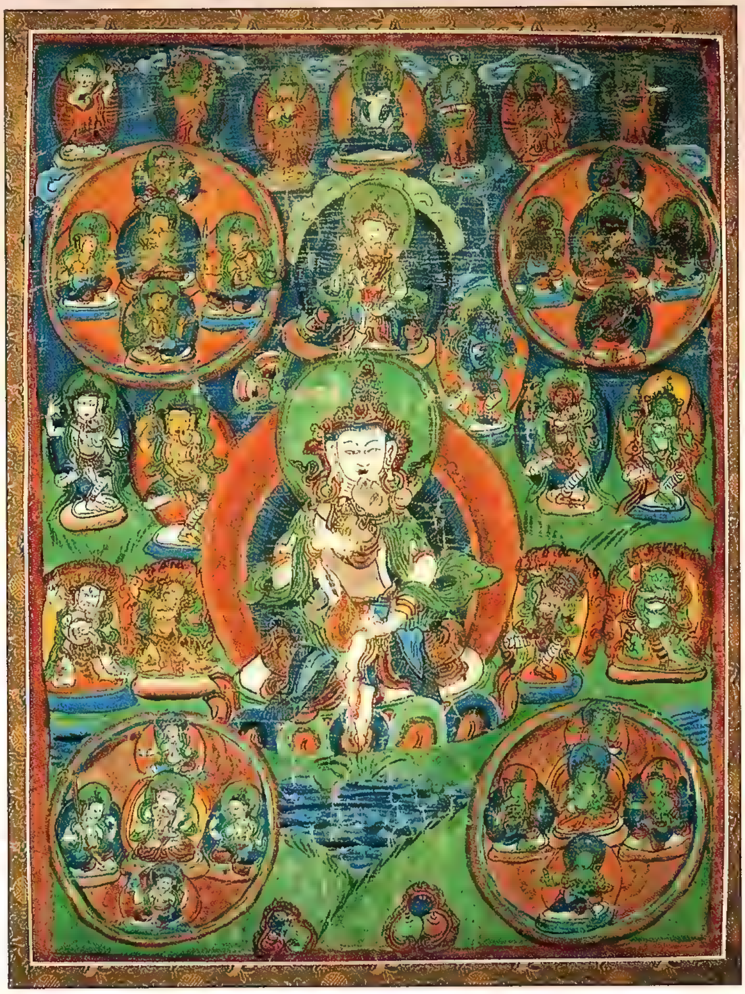
— A Visit with Ye Xingsheng

PHOTOS BY GE JIALIN ARTICLE BY CHOMO

Ye Xingsheng first came to Tibet when he was a small boy. He has lived there with his Tibetan step-father for more than 30 years now and has assimilated well into Tibetan culture. He likes roasted barley and buttered tea, eats raw meat, speaks fluent Tibetan and has many Tibetan friends. His favourite haunts in Lhasa are the stalls that sell second-hand goods at the Pagor Street Bazaar. Tibetans call him Gaco, and journalists call him "The Eccentric of the Plateau". He has given himself the Tibetan name of Loma Saji.

When I walked into his home, which also serves as an exhibition room for his collection of Tibetan folk art and his own paintings, I was assailed by the combined smell of tobacco, butter and the particular odour of a Lhasa back alley. He was sitting at a desk painting a picture. He nodded and gestured for me to sit on the edge of the bed.

After telling Ye the purpose of my visit, he said with a sweep of his hand, "All the objects I've collected are right here in my home. You can look at them as long as you like." His home is only a small room of 20 square metres, furnished with an old, dilapidated desk,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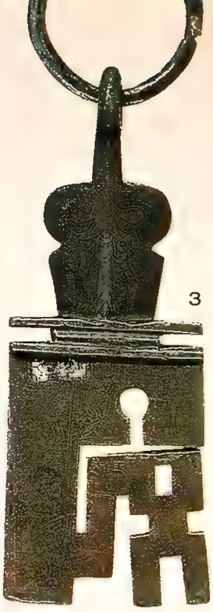
a wardrobe in the same condition, a single bed, a pair of sofas, and a 14-inch black-and-white TV, one of China's earliest models, given to him by a friend. He said that the room served as his sitting room, kitchen and studio. It was in this small room that he finished the last draft for the *Picture of Jaxidele*, a giant mural which he painted for the Tibetan Hall in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. It was also in this room that he painted *The Wind of Tibet*, which won a prize in Japan. His room is often packed with visitors from all social circles, who come to view his impressive collection of Tibetan art.

"My Paintings and My Collection Are My Two Babies"

All the various objects he had collected filled every corner of the room: the walls, the floor, the top of the wardrobe and the windowsill. There were folk carvings made of wood and stone, pictures, woven articles, and pots and jars of every description. Although the articles were arranged in a disorderly fashion, the arrangement seemed to have a style of its own, giving the room a rich, artistic, almost mystical atmosphere.

During our conversation, Ye Xingsheng told me that when he was 13, he left Sichuan Province with his family and moved to the Shannan area of Tibet, which extends southward from Lhasa to the border with Bhutan and India. Shannan (Lhoka) Prefecture is the birthplace of Tibetan culture and home to many historical sites, relics and other places of interest. These include the Monkey Cave, where the legendary Stone Monkey conjugated with the Demon Girl, who gave birth to the Tibetan people; the Yumbulakang, the first building in Tibet; the first cultivated fields in Tibet, and the tombs of Tibetan kings. Ye and his family lived for one year in this area so rich in Tibetan cultural heritage.

One day, Ye went to copy a mural inside Changzhug Monastery, built 1,300 years ago. When he got hungry at lunch time, a young, red-robed monk gave him a small jar of doughnuts in butter and said that he could keep the jar if he liked it. As a result, the pottery jar became the first item of his Tibetan collection. He later acquired some other objects of folk art, either through outright purchase or barter. However, he did not become a serious collector until much later, that is, about 18 years ago.



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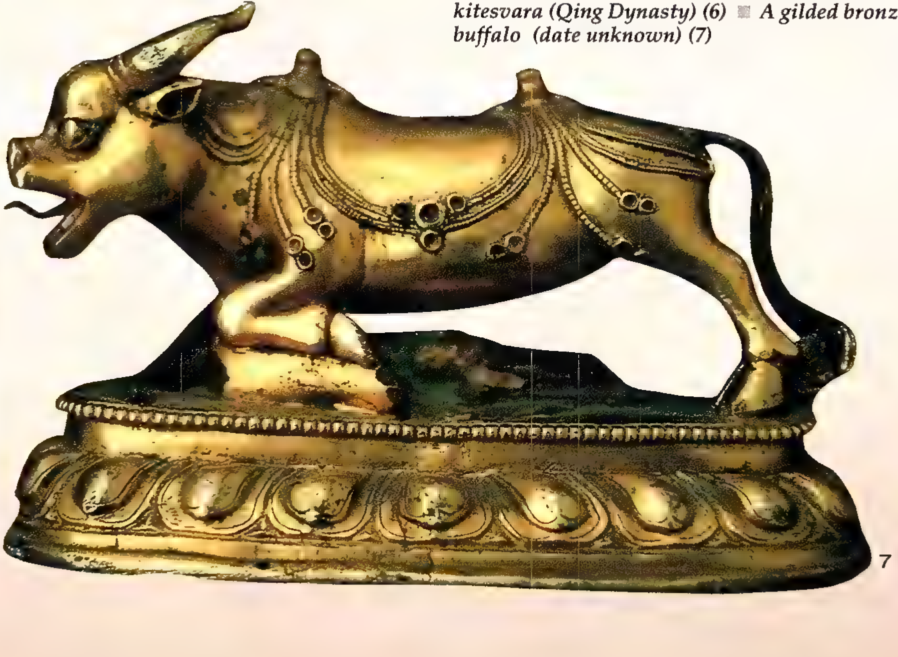

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This thangka *(religious painting) portrays a Buddhist guardian (modern) (1).* ▪ *Ye Xingsheng, the Eccentric of the Plateau, at Lhasa's Pagor Street Bazaar, bargaining with a stall-keeper in Tibetan (2)* ▪ *A large cast-iron key (Qing Dynasty) (3)* ▪ Left: *A silver-plated iron saddle ornament, with both cast and carved designs (date unknown)* Right: *A saddle ornament with cast, carved and embossed golden dragon designs (Qing Dynasty) (4)* ▪ Left: *A frog-shaped bronze vase inlaid with stones (date unknown)* Right: *A wooden bowl with a dragon design (modern) (5).* ▪ *A statuette of an eleven-faced Avalokitesvara (Qing Dynasty) (6)* ▪ *A gilded bronze buffalo (date unknown) (7)*

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In order to make new acquisitions, he lived frugally and sold everything of value in his home, even the gold and silver ornaments his mother had given him for his wedding. The hardest things for him to sell were the pictures he had painted over several decades, including a dozen or so of his favourite works. "My paintings and my collection are my two babies, " he said. "In order to keep one I had to sell the other." At present, his collection has grown to as many as 1,000 items, divided into eight categories. At the Second Cultural Exhibition of China's Minority Nationalities, his collection took up one-sixth of the exhibition hall and won the Special Prize for Rare Collections, the highest national prize for such displays.

Ye reached under his bed and pulled out an object, which at first glance looked like a ladle made from half a gourd, but was actually a lamp without a stand. This uniquely shaped lamp was used during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) by the night guard of a powerful Tibetan family. It is the only one of its kind to be found anywhere. He then showed me a big Tibetan iron lock, which is also one of the rarest items in his collection. The lock was 30 centimetres long and its surface was decorated with inlaid gold and silver patterns reminiscent of Ming-dynasty (1368-1644) artwork. Hanging on one of the walls was a disk of pure silver, as big as a football. It was a personal ornament meant to be fastened on one's belt.

The disk was decorated with carved twin dragons, a huge bird, a white tiger and other complicated patterns, and inlaid with sparkling coral and turquoise. Made of a whole kilogram of silver, the disk was certainly one of the most gorgeous Tibetan ornaments I had ever seen. Suspended below the disk was a small, exquisitely crafted Tibetan knife. Another one of his rare Tibetan ornaments was a string of eight brass bells which weighed as much as ten kilograms, and had a large

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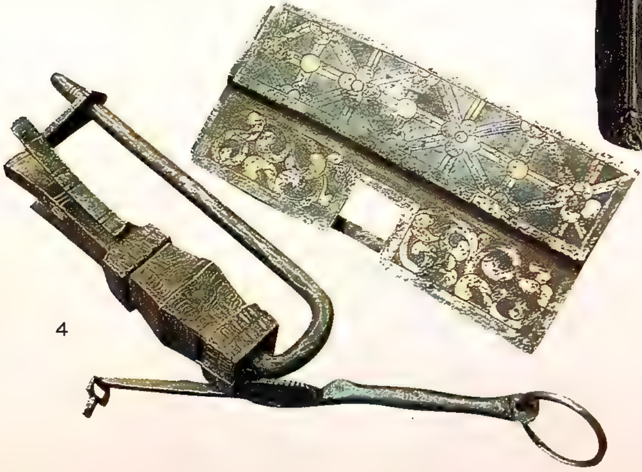

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scarlet tassel attached at the bottom. The bells were made to be worn by people or around the neck of a draft animal. He said that the bells could be heard from several kilometres away.

Thousand-Year-Old Totems

Of all the objects in his collection, I was most interested in the ancient personal ornaments known as *tuojia* in the Tibetan language. They were cast in metal and most of them were in either geometric shapes or in the shapes of animals such as large birds, bull heads, scorpions, centipedes, frogs or snakes, all of which were ancient totems. Some were so badly worn that I could hardly tell what they were. Their age could only be estimated by looking at the condition of the rings or leather strips on which the objects had been suspended.

Ye told me that *tuojia* means "thunder stone" or "stone from heaven". Tibetans looked upon them as sacred objects, and believed that they were pieces of broken weapons that fell from the sky when the legendary Eight Contingents of Heavenly Dragons fought against evil spirits. These broken parts of weapons sank to the ninth depths of the earth and resurfaced nine years later, when they were discovered by enlightened beings deep in the wilds of Tibet. People believed that if these ornaments were worn on one's person or kept in a shrine in their home, that they could ward off evil spirits, prevent disease and protect one against thunderbolts. These objects are in fact totems, or personal ornaments, associated with ancient religious beliefs of the nomadic Tibetan people in the remote past. They are some 1,000 years old, thus Tibet scholars abroad consider the collection and study of these objects to be of great importance. A special section is devoted to the study of these objects in a book called *Tibetan Archaeology* written by an Italian collector.

(Continued on page 91)

A roc (a legendary bird) and dragon maids carved in wood (Song Dynasty) (1) ■ A bronze figure used as a Tantra offering (Ming Dynasty) (2) ■ Tibetan knives with carved silver dragon designs (Qing Dynasty) (3) ■ An iron lock inlaid with gold and silver patterns (Ming Dynasty) (4) ■ A copper incense burner with the eight auspicious signs (Qing Dynasty) (5) ■ An acrobat on a donkey, made of red copper (Qing Dynasty) (6)

A wooden qingke ***barley beer flask with copper hoop and a copper cup with lid (Qing Dynasty) (7) ■ Ye Xingsheng at home with part of his collection (8) ■ Ornaments made of ivory and carved animal horns (9)***

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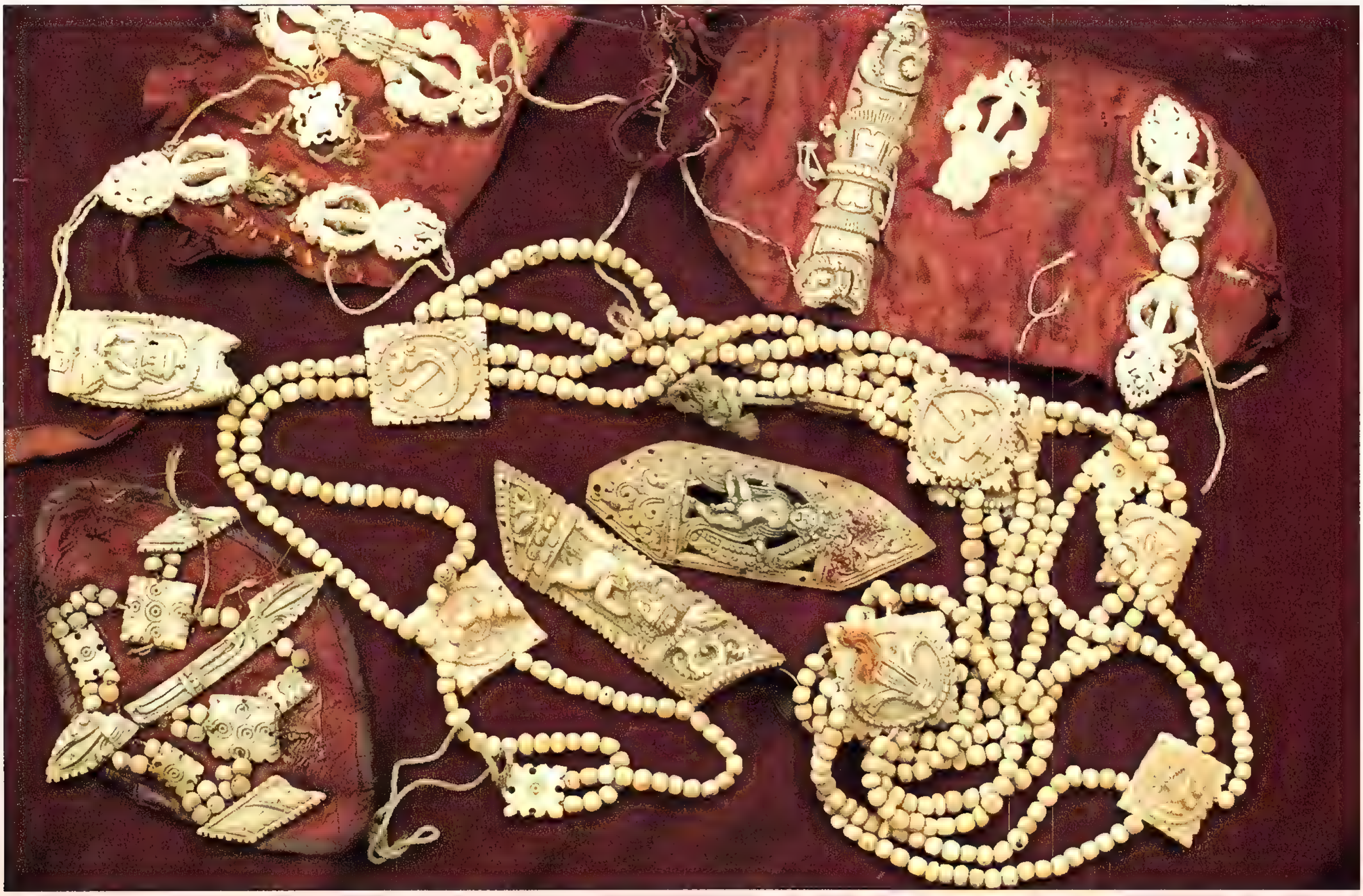

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Marble Masterpieces in Quyang

PHOTOS BY PENG ZHEN GE
TEXT BY YANG ZHIJIAN

This busy marble quarry in West Yangping Township is the source of marble for many Quyang sculptures.

It took only a few hours by bus from Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei Province, to reach the county seat of Quyang 100 kilometres away. Once inside the town, the marvellous stone sculptures Quyang is famed for seemed everywhere, displayed both in stores and in stalls along the street.

The stone sculptures come in a wide variety of shapes, including statues of ladies, Buddhist images, birds, animals, fruit such as melons, apricots and peaches and daily articles such as grinding stones, pestles, drums, tables and stelae. I came here purposely to see these handicrafts, but was surprised to find such a rich assortment of stone sculptures in such a remote town.

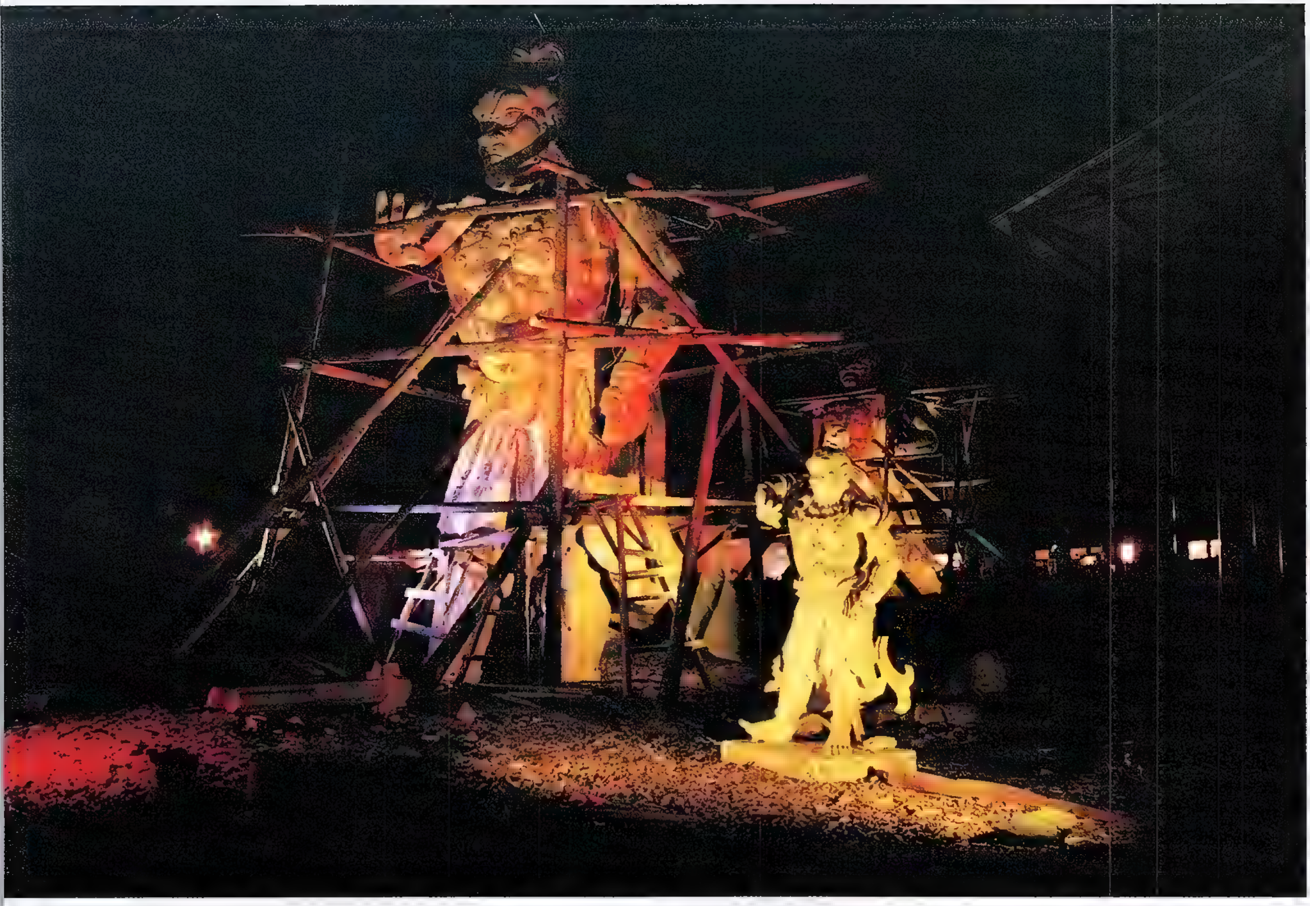
Quyang is not, however, the main centre for stone carving. In order to understand why the skill here is so highly developed, one must go to West Yangping Township, the very heart of marble carving. Before entering the village, I spotted a quarry where villagers were hammering away with chisels and excavating stone blocks with bars. In this busy quarry, the white marble most suitable for sculpture lies only a few metres from the earth's surface.

I went down to a pit some 500 metres deep and watched as several villagers tied steel wires around a huge block of marble and then hoisted it onto the ground by turning a winch. They would later transport the marble back to the village. They put the small pieces unsuitable for sculpture into a nearby stone pulverizer, which turned out white stone powder for other uses. It seemed almost like a self-sufficient family workshop.

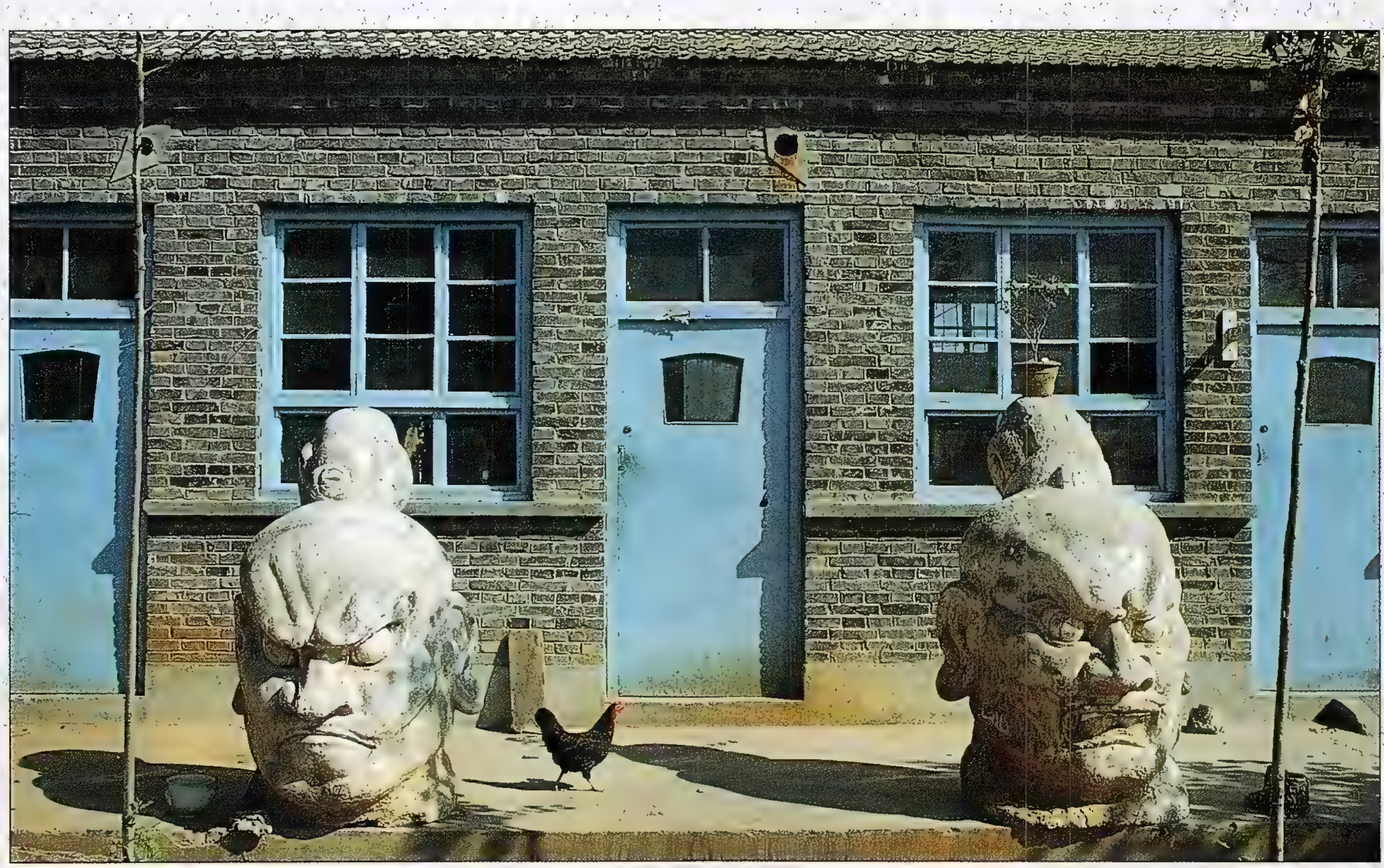
Records in *The Chronicles of Quyang County* offer proof that this area has long been known for its marble: "Huangshan Mountain in the southern suburbs has turned out white stone since ancient times for the use of stelae and tombstones, therefore the surrounding villages boast many stone carvers."

On my way into West Yangping , I passed the entrance to Beiyue Temple, said to be the place where the emperors of the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534) worshipped the mountain deities. In the temple there were various stone sculptures and inscriptions from different dynasties, of which the oldest is a stone stele carved during the Han Dynasty 2,000 years ago.

Scattered about the temple are 99 stone lions carved during the Northern Wei Dynasty, each with a posture and bearing all its own. It is said that the stone lions and Buddhist statues carved in that period had a very distinctive style. The temple also houses a Buddha statue carved during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and two headless statues of Ananda and Kasyapa, disciples of Sakyamuni, carved during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). All of these works of art, even the oldest, were made by the stoneworkers of Quyang.

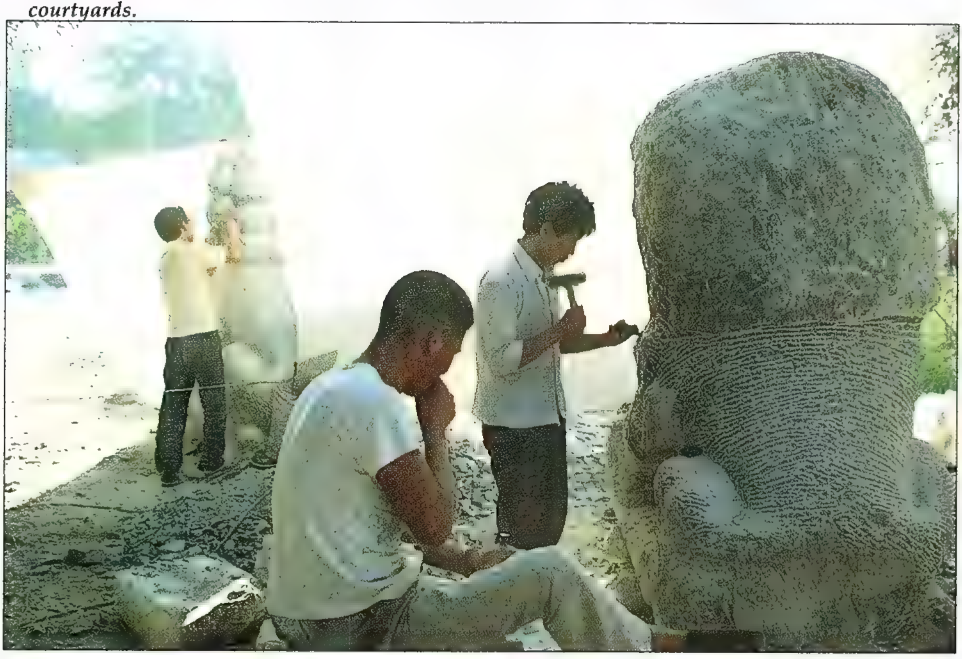


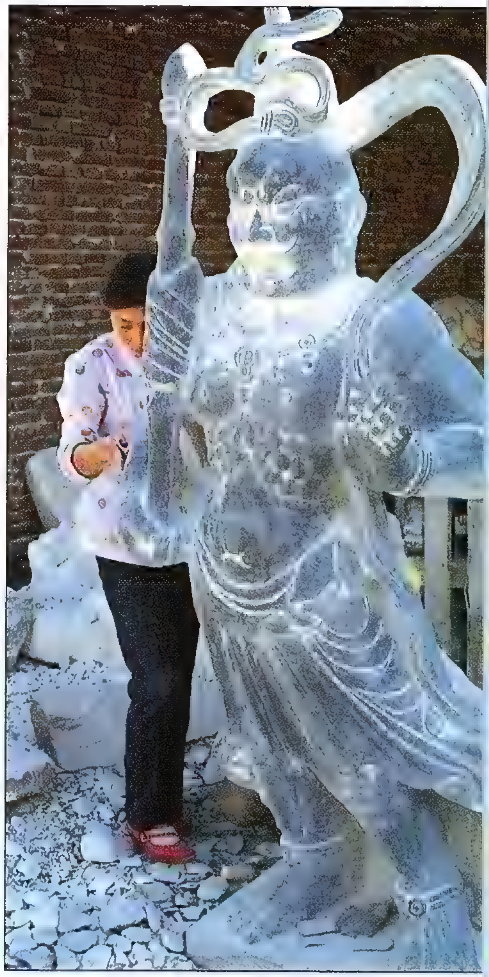
These massive statues of Heavenly Guardians, the largest 14 metres tall, are ready to be shipped to Kobe in Japan (by Fu Xin).



These are two sample heads ordered by Japanese customers, who have commissioned specific sculptures.

Stoneyards can be seen everywhere in West Yangping Township, even in people's own courtyards.

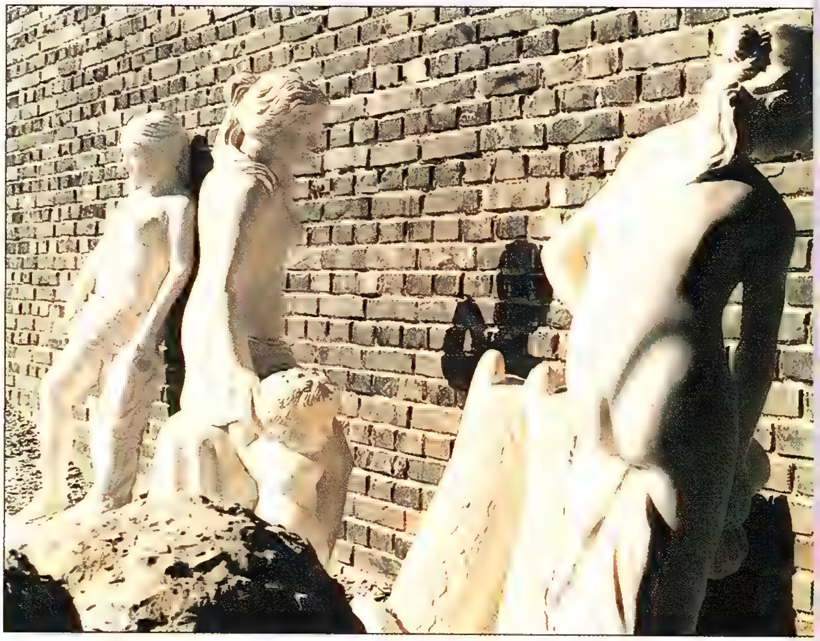




This young woman is absorbed in her work carvi an imposing statue of a Heavenly Guardian.

曲陽石雕

In the corner of a villager's courtyard, legendary figures and other statues await purchase.



Western-style nudes are also popular items (by Yang Zhijian)

In the village, people were busy carving stone lions in groups of three or five persons, formed on a voluntary basis. The working site was partitioned off by canvas into several stoneyards. Upon closer inspection, I saw that the stonecutters were working on blocks of marble and cutting them into the shapes of huge lions. The whole lion from the mane to its paws was adorned with wavy lines, making it appear as though every part of the lion were in motion. Using this technique, the full force of leonine ferocity was vividly portrayed. I was told that this art of carving lions was a "family secret" and would not be revealed to anyone else.

In a courtyard two sisters were putting the final touches on a pair of statues of Heavenly Guardians.They were wielding their chisels deftly and almost rhythmically. They paid no attention to my unexpected arrival, but went on chatting and laughing as they worked.

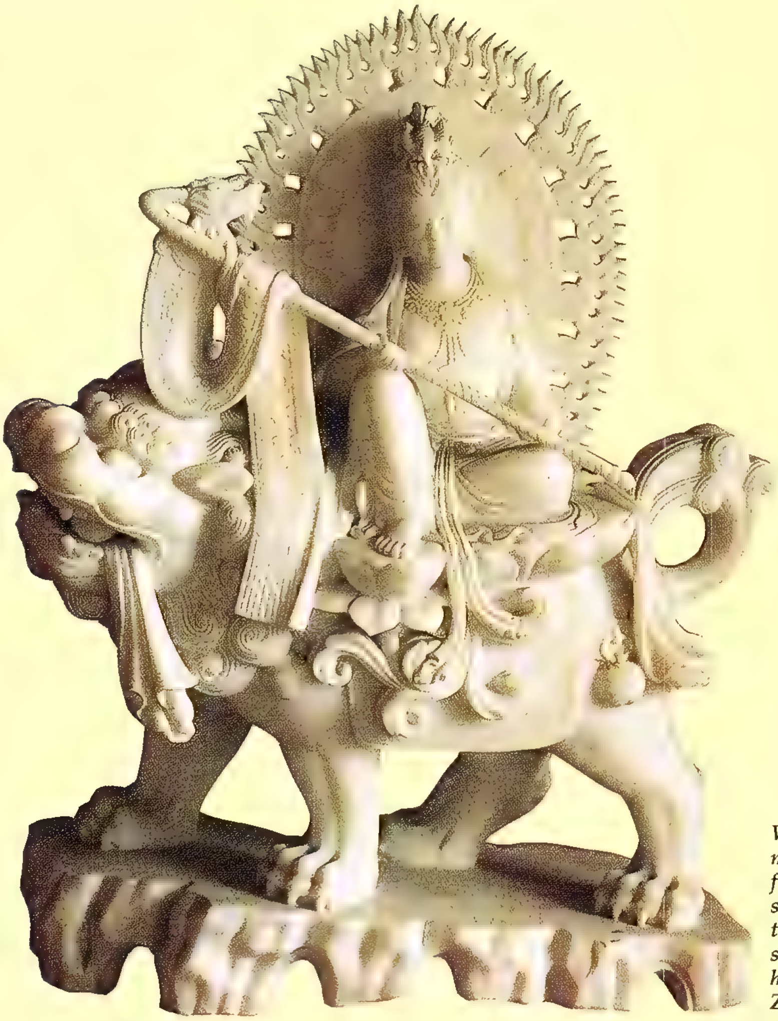
The statues of the Heavenly Guardians were over two metres tall with sloping shoulders, large ears, bulging eyes and closed mouths. Their swaggering bearing was expressed by the exaggerated hands and eyes, giving them a stalwart and powerful look. If I had not seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed that these bold and fearsome statues were executed by the petite hands of such pretty girls.

Wandering along the country paths, I saw all kinds of sculptures and half-finished statues scattered everywhere: warriors, Buddhist statues, nude female figures and legendary characters from novels. Some stoneworkers were even working on statues right along the sides of the paths.

No one stayed idle for long in this village, where the only sound one hears is the tinkle made by the impact of chisels. Old women were hard at work carving stone pears and peaches out of fist-sized rocks they had picked up from the stoneyards. When finished, these pieces would be brought to the market for sale. Even young children were wielding small hammers and breaking the discarded stones into tiny pebbles called "stone rice", which would be used as architectural decorations. Once brought to the collection stations, they would sell at a good price.

My last stop was a visit to a stone carving factory, whose open-air courtyard was filled with statues such as the Roman goddess of love, Venus, an Indian-style seated Buddha, a Chinese Avalokitesvara and a Japanese God of Strength. Each of these works of art were earmarked to be shipped overseas to Kobe in Japan, where countless people would be able to enjoy the craftsmanship of this tiny town in Hebei.

Translated by Gu Weizhou

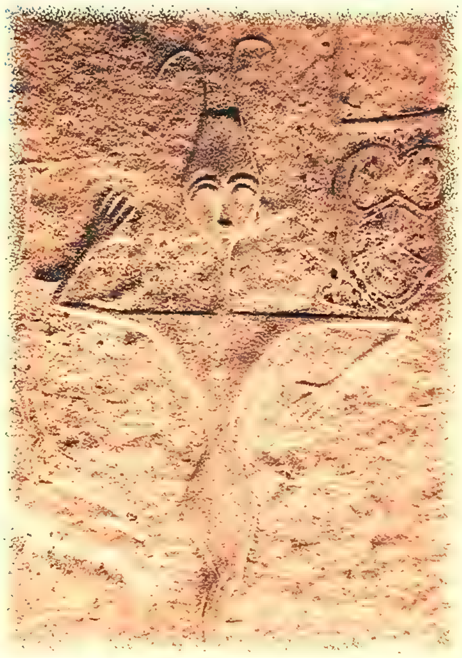


Works by Lu Jinqiao, a master of handicrafts and fine arts in China, have been selected and maintained as treasures by the State. This statue of Manjusri is one of his masterpieces (by Yang Zhijian).

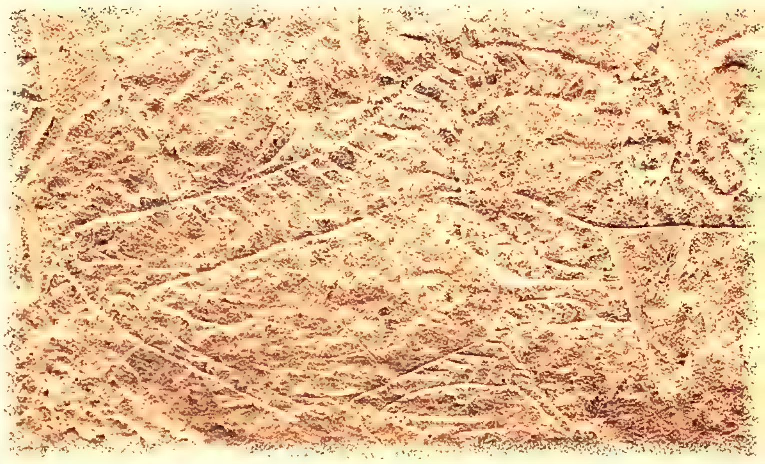
This magnificent "ancient castle" is where the 2,000-year-old rock pictures were found.

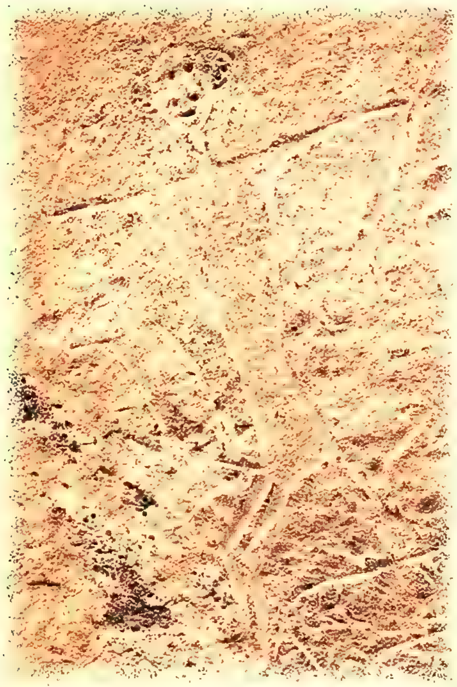
The Fertility Rock Paintings in Hutubi

PHOTOS & TEXT BY SHEN CHANGYONG

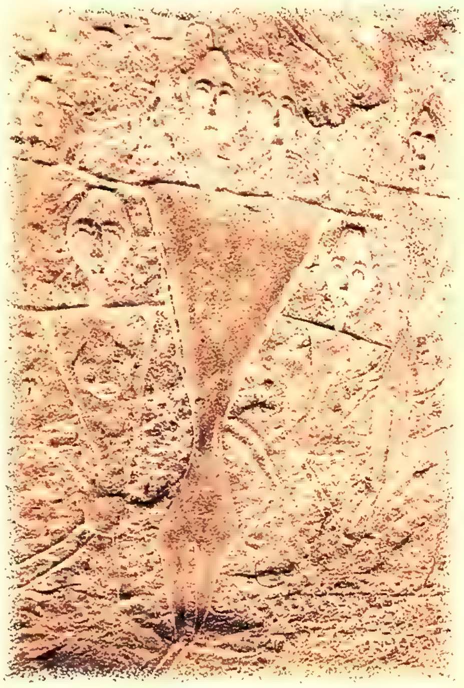


A specific example of the combination of bas-relief with intaglio



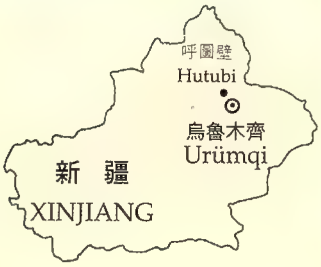


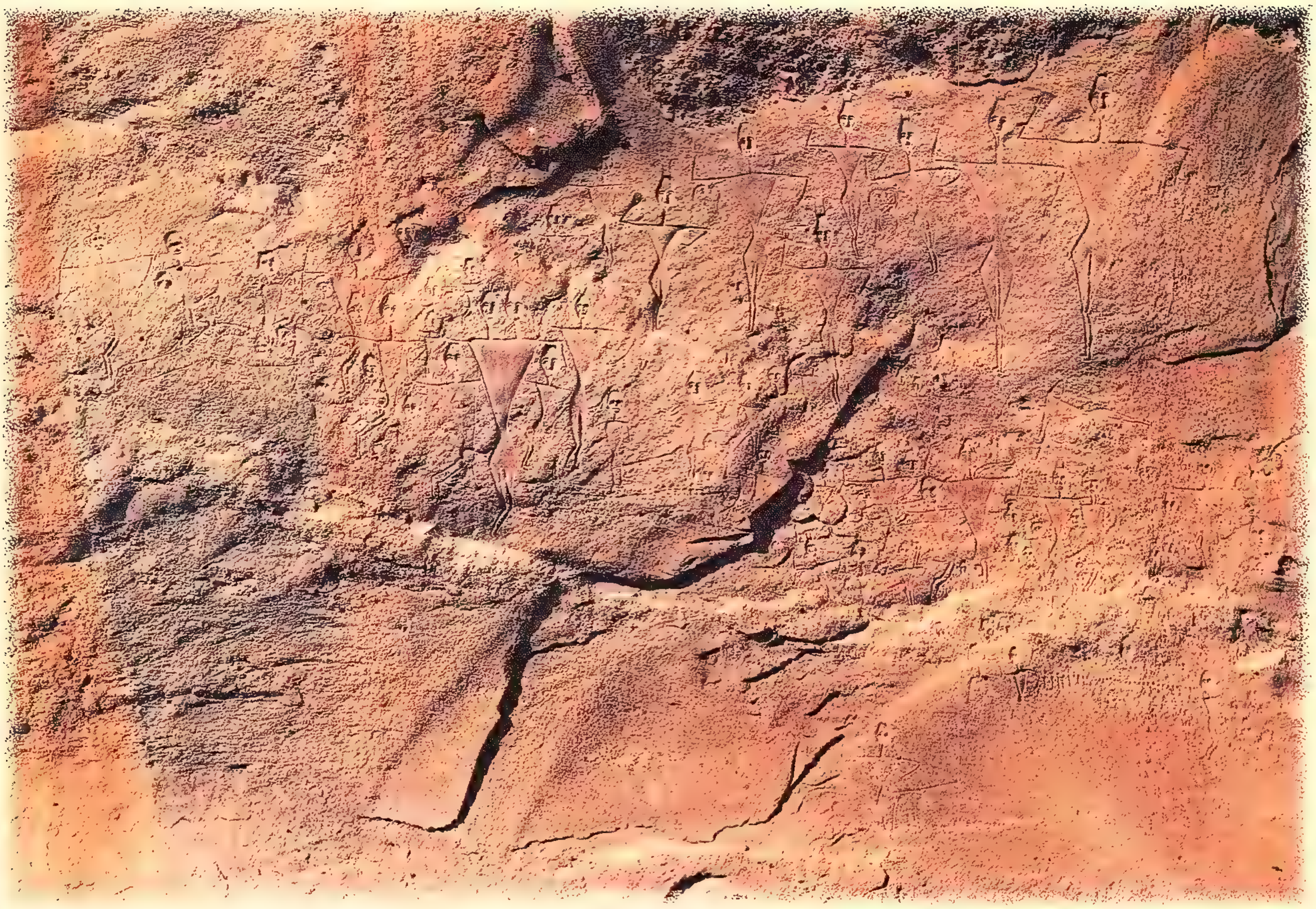
This figure, with the face of a monkey and the body of a human, shows the creativity of artists in prehistoric times.



▲ *These two tigers are part of the rock pictures.*

◀ *Primitive people's fervent desire for fertility can be glimpsed in this picture — a fusion of the bodies of the two sexes.*





The paintings on this huge section of rock depict the wish for a flourishing population.

For primitive people, fertility worship was a common practice used to express the hope for the propagation of their kind. The rock paintings discovered in Hutubi County just north of Ürümqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, testifies to this. The location of these rock pictures is known locally as Kangjiashimenzi, a spot nestled deep in the Tianshan Mountains. Surrounded by fertile grasslands and verdant forests, the paintings were executed on a well-hidden, strangely shaped rock mountain. From a distance the mountain looks like an ancient castle in a fairy tale, with the concave parts resembling doors and windows and the convex parts like meticulously designed pillars. About 10 metres from the bottom of the rock mountain are the paintings, which are 14 metres in width, nine metres in height, and occupy an area of 120 square metres.

This massive example of collective art was created by nomadic herders who lived in northern Xinjiang over 2,000 years ago. Using simple lines, some 300 human figures are incised on the rock face, with the biggest larger than a normal person and the smallest only 10-20 centimetres high. The figures encompass a wide variety of images: both male and female, standing and reclining, clothed or naked, dancing or performing other actions. The male figures have thick brows plus large eyes, mouths, and noses, and are mostly rendered with their reproductive organs. The females all have full figures, slender necks and waists and round hips, and some also have their reproductive organs delineated.

Although the main topic of all the drawings is the wish for a flourishing population, the creators of the pictures expressed this desire by drawing artistic images of dancers. In the joyous steps of the dancing figures, one can see reflections of the frank and simple life style of primitive people. Their forthright depiction of their wish for fertility has much to do with their natural environment and the conditions of the time. In the early stages of social development, human beings were constantly endangered by the elements, diseases, hunger, wild animals or human enemies. Increasing their numbers became their first and foremost goal, and rock pictures were one of the methods they used to express this.

Looking at them today, the rock pictures not only embody for us the thoughts and ideas of these ancient people, but also show us their level of skill and artistry. The main characteristics are a combination of bas-relief and intaglio, with the former technique applied on the heads of the figures and the latter on the delineation of the bodies and limbs. Since the pictures were not the work of just one artist, but were done over a period of time by many members of the community, they offer us a real and objective glimpse into the hopes, dreams, attitudes and lives of their creators.

Translated by K.V. Ku

Life Is a Picture

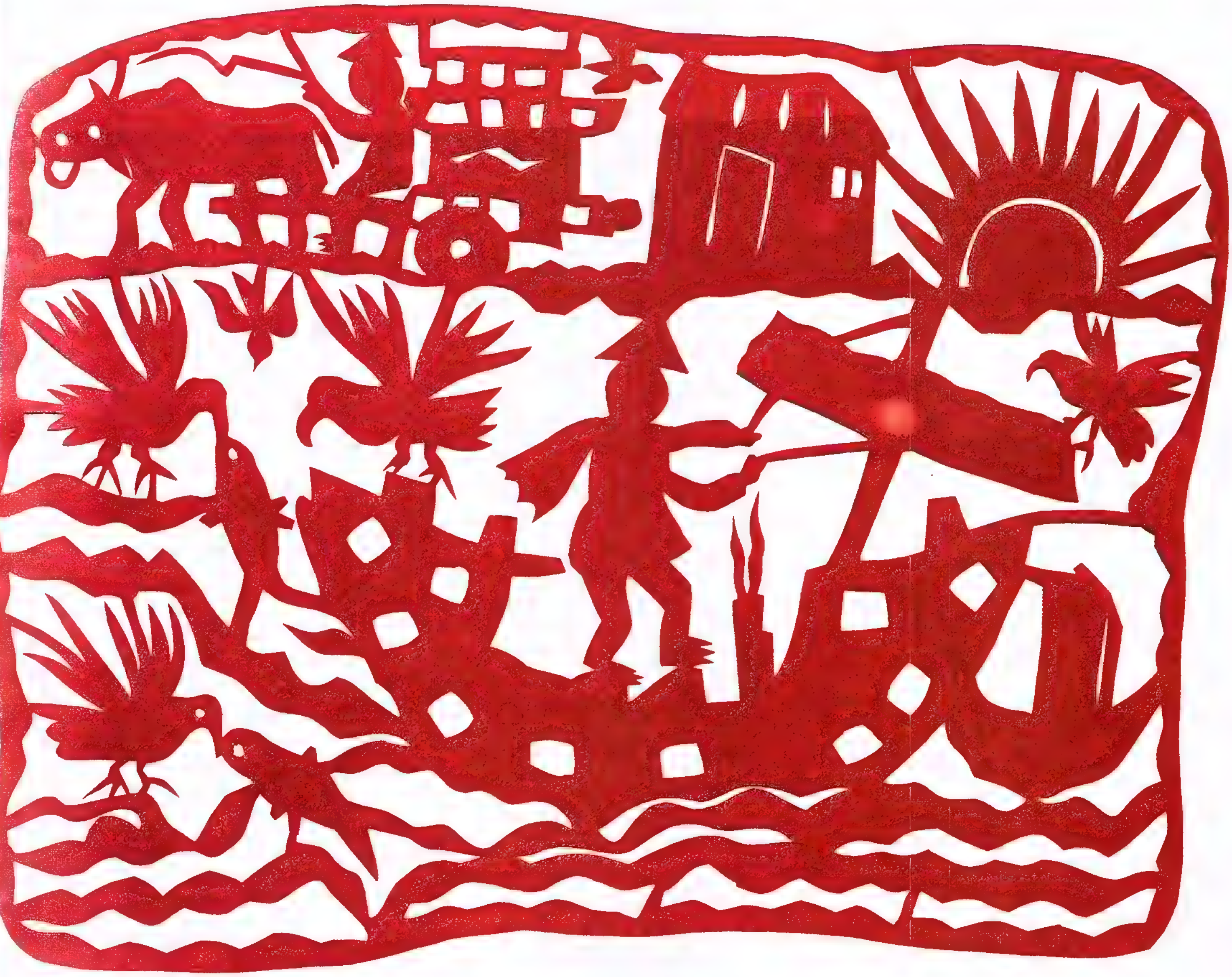
— Paper-cuts from Northern Jiangsu

PHOTOS BY ZHE YUNFENG
TEXT BY DING SHOUZHONG

The women living in Pixian County in northern Jiangsu Province are highly skilled at the art of paper-cutting. By simply snipping away at a piece of coloured paper with a pair of scissors, all sorts of intricate pictures seem to just spring out of their hands. Their works include pictures made to be stuck on windows, decorative fringes to be pasted on the lintels of doors, plus paper-cuts made for special occasions such as weddings, the Lunar New Year or the Lantern Festival.

Pixian's paper-cuts are varied in theme. Common events of rural life such as harvesting, watching operas, going to the market and the daily activities of farming people all serve as inspiration for these artisans. A first glance at these local paper-cuts gives one a feeling of roughness, but after more careful consideration, one discovers that they have a lively and playful appeal.

Many of the methods used in paper-cutting are peculiar to this area. For example, some paper-cuts are rendered in an austere way, presenting what the cutter wants to express in just a few cuts; while some are cut out of folded paper in a compact pattern. Others are done using the silhouette method, where a figure is first cut out and then decorated with dense dots to highlight its detailed parts. This simple yet vivid art form portrays both the hardships and joys of country life.



■ **Beijing's Old Observatory** This photo of part of the Old Observatory in Beijing was done silhouette-style, with the sun's brightness hidden behind the ancient astrological instrument's heavy, solid lines. In the far distance one can see the tops of buildings which stretch off to the horizon, their modern, square shapes contrasting with the swirling patterns in the foreground. ■

■ **The Eaves of an Ancient Building** As the sun slowly sets, it leaves a misty layer of reddish-pink in its wake before disappearing into the night. The layers of this Dong minority building in Guizhou Province beautifully parallel the slowly moving clouds, and the graceful arc of the upturned eaves adds an extra dimension of serenity to the scene. ■

The Changing Colours of Twilight

PHOTOGRAPHER: PAUL LAU

■ Sunset has always been a favourite subject matter for photographers, and for good reason. Each sunset is full of possibilities, as the colours and clouds change from moment to moment, bringing with them a particular mood or atmosphere. Both of these photos, which use the sunset as backdrop and an ancient structure as the main subject, capture a different version of twilight in China.

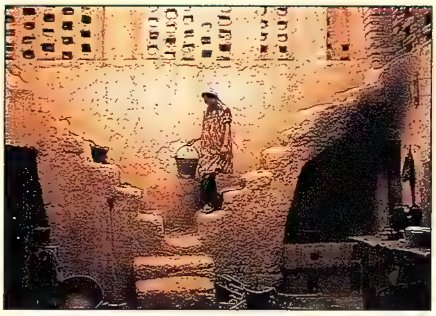
More Sights Around Xinjiang

Today's traveller is fortunate indeed to live in a time when so much of the world is easily accessible. It certainly wasn't always this way. Up until recent decades, Xinjiang was a place only few visitors ever dared venture, except for merchants plying the ancient Silk Road. Many centuries ago, of course, Xinjiang was home to a number of flourishing civilizations such as Luolan, but the encroaching desert slowly swallowed them up and left nothing in its wake but ruins. For this reason, Xinjiang is a favourite destination for archaeologists, who are continually making new and extraordinary discoveries.

Xinjiang these days is both remote enough and open enough to the outside world to satisfy all types of travellers, as well as being more accessible than ever before in its history. Apart from the 13 different minorities that inhabit the region, Xinjiang is also home to some of China's most fantastic scenery: snow-capped mountains, glaciers, alpine lakes, green pastures covered with wild flowers and vast deserts. Below we take a look at some of the sights around the region not mentioned in our main articles.

Flaming Mountain near Turpan

Turpan Known for its luscious locally-grown grapes, Turpan is located just southeast of Urümqi. The two most famous places to visit here are Huoyan (Flaming) Mountain and Grape Valley. The mountain is so named due to its red colour, which comes from the fact that it is made entirely of burnt red sandstone. The name is accurate not only for the colour but also for the scorching hot temperatures — ranging from 48℃ to 70℃ in the summer — that prevail here. The mountain itself is only some 500 metres high, but runs for about 100 kilometres.

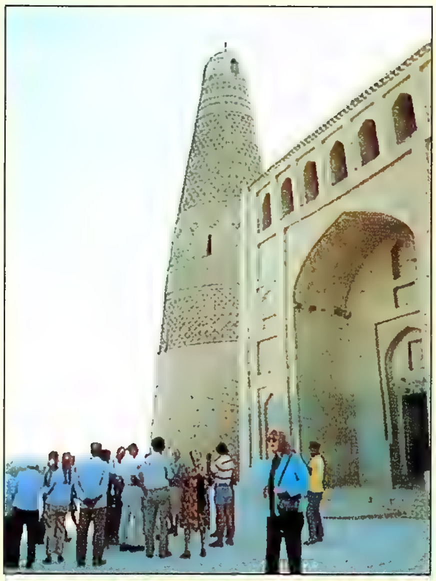


In the Flaming Mountain area, houses are built underground to better cope with the high temperatures, the highest being 70 °C.

Running through Huoyan Mountain is Grape Valley, a pleasantly cool contrast to the heat of the scorched cliffs. The valley is located along a canal northeast of Turpan and measures about eight kilometres in length. Here one can wander among trellises laden with grapes, which have been cultivated in the valley since ancient times.

Besides Huoyan Mountain and Grape Valley, there are a number of other places one can visit nearby. To the east there is a valley of peach and apricot trees, as well as the Bozaikrik Thousand Buddha Caves. The caves are set into the cliffs and contain ancient Buddhist frescoes that have retained their colour to this day. Both Buddhist and Manichaeist canons have been discovered in the caves, the latter of which have prompted further research into this ancient religion. One can also see the remains of a number of Manichaeist mosques in the areas of Turpan called Sangim, Tuyok and Bezeklik. The most typical of these mosques is in Sangim and is called the North Mosque. It was built on five levels of terraces, with five halls constructed on the third terrace. Drawings on the walls here have shed much light on the iconography and philosophy of Manichaeism, a religion that survived here until the end of the 10th century.

The Bozaikrik Thousand Buddha Caves (by Wang Miao)



Emin Pagoda, located two kilometres east of Turpan

Two kilometres east of Turpan is Emin Pagoda, where one can have a wonderful view of the Turpan Basin. The pagoda was built in 1778 by the Uygur Sulaiman, then king of Turpan Prefecture. It was built in memory of his father, who was also king of the prefecture and head of all the Uygur people under his jurisdiction. The pagoda is made of brick and is an excellent example of Uygur architecture, standing some 44 metres high. No stone or wood was used in building the pagoda, and the entire structure is supported by a brick spiral staircase inside.

Jimsar North of Turpan is the small city of Jimsar, where there are the ruins of two ancient structures. The first is called Beiting City and is located 10 kilometres north of Jimsar. Beiting was founded as long ago as the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) and remained a major centre of political, military and cultural affairs until the middle of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), when it was destroyed. The city is composed of two parts, an inner and an outer city. The outer city is some five kilometres in circumference, and walls as high as 10 metres still stand today.

About one kilometre west of the city are the ruins of the Gaochang Huihu Buddhist Temple, a large and grand building constructed in the 10th century. The Gaochang Huihu Dynasty ruled this area from the ninth to the 13th century and had its capital in Gaochang City in Turpan. The temple is still in fairly good condition, and on the outer walls of the main halls are two layers of caves. Inside the caves there are Buddhist images, and in the three temple halls one can also see the remains of statues and frescoes.

Kashi One of the most popular cities for travellers to visit in Xinjiang is Kashi (also known as Kashgar), located in the southwestern corner of the autonomous region. Kashi first became a centre for trade on the Silk Road some 2,000 years ago, but products available back then were strictly limited to cattle, sheep, melons, firewood and salt, although later on tea, silk and porcelain were also for sale in the bazaars. Today, Kashi is more prosperous than ever before, and a dazzling array of goods are available for purchase.

Besides Chinese-made products, one can find gauze from Pakistan, jewels from Arab countries, scarves from the former Soviet Union, jewellery from India and much more. Although the population of Kashi is only around 200,000, there are over 20 bazaars throughout the city, with Sundays being the busiest market day. One relatively new item available in Kashi's bazaars is locally-made, hand-woven cloth, which was made here for centuries in the past but was discontinued due to the development of China's textile industry. Today hand-woven cloth is a popular item for visitors to purchase.

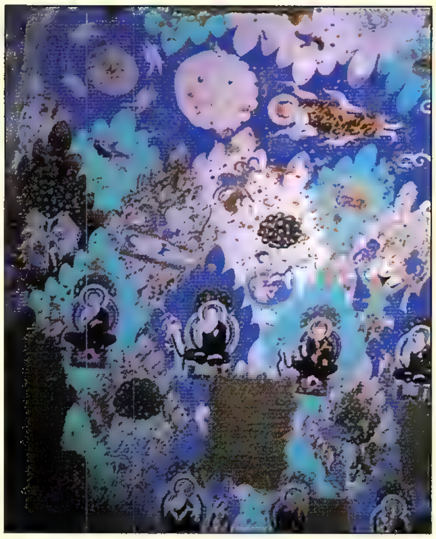
The Hetika Mosque is located in the centre of Kashi.

There is much to see in Kashi's streets and lanes, but two buildings in particular are worth special attention. The first is the Hetika Mosque, located in the centre of the city in Hetika Square. The largest mosque in Xinjiang, Hetika was built over a 40-year period from 1798 to 1838 with funds donated by two Uygur women. The mosque is a beautiful example of Uygur architecture and has been listed as a protected historical relic. Every year during the Islamic festivals of Lesser Bairam and Corban, people come here in the thousands to attend religious services, sing and dance.

The other important piece of Uygur architecture in Kashi is called Hezyat by the local people. It stands outside Kashi's East Gate and has a large courtyard with gardens, temples and terraces. Hezyat was built in 1640 for an Islamic missionary who came here from Central Asia. Still in good condition despite its 350 years, Hezyat is one of Kashi's finest structures.

Aksu Aksu is located about half-way between the cities of Kashi and Korla, and also lies along the route of the ancient Silk Road. A quiet and tranquil place, Aksu is a nature-lover's paradise, with snow-capped mountains, rivers, lakes, grasslands and deserts. Of these, Dragon Pool is one of the most scenic spots to visit, as it is surrounded by mountains and grassland and its waters are clear and blue. Aksu is also known for its awesome sandstorms, which tourists must take care to avoid if they visit the city in spring and winter.

Aksu holds a special place in history, as it was the seat of a little-known kingdom named Qiuci for over 1,200 years, from 69 B.C. to 1218. Today one can still see remnants of this ancient culture in the city's traditional music and dance. About 100 kilometres northwest of Aksu is a Muslim graveyard, called "mazar" in the local language. Although non-Muslims are not allowed to enter, it is an interesting sight to see even from the outside.



Murals inside the Kirzil Thousand Buddha Caves at Baicheng

Northeast of Aksu is Baicheng County, where the Kirzil Thousand Buddha Caves are found. The construction of the caves went on for some 1,000 years, beginning in the Han Dynasty and not ending until the Song and Yuan dynasties in the 11th century. Today there are 236 caves that one can visit and 10,000 square metres of frescoes, the latter of which vividly portray life in the Qiuci Kingdom. For this reason, the caves are considered protected historical relics.

Nearby the caves is Qianlei (Thousand Tears) Spring, which is nestled in a quiet and secluded valley. There is an old legend about how the spring and the caves came into being. Long ago a princess of the Qiuci Kingdom fell in love with a commoner. Her father the king would not condone their relationship and told the young man that he could only marry the princess if he dug 1,000 Buddhist caves in the cliffs. Tragically, after he had finished digging the 999th cave, he died from exhaustion. When the princess found out, she went to his body and cried over it until she too had died of exhaustion. The cliffs and rocks were so moved by this scene that they shed tears of their own, which formed Qianlei Spring.

Three Specialties of Xinjiang Cuisine

Deep-fried noodles are always served during the Corban and Lesser Bairam festivals.

Ponuo — a favourite food of the elderly

Whole roasted lambs to be served at a feast

Nang

Nang is the local name for Xinjiang-style baked bread. Like baked bread elsewhere, nang is made of flour, salt, water and yeast, but this is only the basic nang. There are actually over 50 different types of nang, such as meat nang, deep-fried nang, sesame nang, sliced nang and so on. Meat nang is made with mutton, pepper, onions and spices, deep-fried nang is fried in mutton oil, and sesame nang is made by adding grape juice and sesame seeds.

Nang has been the staple food for some 2,000 years among all the ethnic groups that live in the region. As it contains very little water it can last a long time, thus it is suited to Xinjiang's hot, dry climate. It is also ideal for nomadic peoples such as the Khazak, as it is very portable and can be eaten anywhere, anytime.

Ponuo

Ponuo, roughly translated as Finger-Picking Rice, is the Uygur equivalent of fried rice and, as the name indicates, is eaten with the hands. Unlike nang, ponuo is not a daily staple but rather is reserved for special occasions such as weddings or the New Year. Ponuo is generally made with small pieces of mutton, which are deep-fried and then sauteed with onions and carrots. This concoction is boiled with salt and water, then the rice is added and cooked until ready. Ponuo can also be made with poultry or beef instead of mutton, and there is even a vegetarian version which is made with dried fruit and is popular during the hot summer months.

A large-sized nang

Mutton

Mutton is a very common food for the people of Xinjiang, and perhaps the most well-known mutton dish is whole roasted lamb. For this purpose a lamb under two years old is needed. After it is skinned, cleaned and beheaded, the carcass is placed on a spit to roast. A paste made of egg yolk, salt, water, ginger, pepper, flour and spices is applied to the meat, which turns it a golden yellow colour when done. It is then sliced and served with salt.

Kebabs are another favourite of Xinjiang residents, and are usually also made with mutton. One can see snacks like kebabs, Xinjiang-style dumplings and nang bread in street stalls everywhere in the region.

Flights to and from Urümqi

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Aksu — Urümqi	1 3 5 7	17:55	20:00	XO9916
Urümqi — Aksu	1 3 5 7	15:00	17:15	XO9915
Alma-Ata — Urümqi	1 5	11:05	14:30	XO712
Urümqi — Alma-Ata	1 5	09:50	09:35	XO711
Altay — Urümqi	1 2 4 6	16:40	18:00	XO9920
Urümqi — Altay	1 2 4 6	14:40	16:00	XO9919
Beijing — Urümqi	2	17:50	21:45	XO9602
	5	10:35	14:40	CJ6961
	6	10:05	14:25	CJ6901
	2 4 6	19:05	23:05	XO9512
	3 5 7	21:10	01:05	XO9312
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:40	17:40	XO9102
Urümqi — Beijing	2	08:35	11:45	XO9601
	5	15:30	18:50	CJ6962
	6	15:15	18:30	CJ6902
	2 4 6	07:55	11:15	XO9511
	3 5 7	07:55	11:15	XO9311
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:45	12:10	XO9101
Guangzhou — Urümqi	6	14:55	21:10	XO9308
	2 7	09:25	14:35	CZ3911
	3 5 7	17:10	01:05	XO9312
	1 2 3 4 5 7	14:20	19:35	XO9302
Urümqi — Guangzhou	6	08:35	14:05	XO9307
	2 7	15:35	20:10	CZ3912
	3 5 7	07:55	15:45	XO9311
	1 2 3 4 5 7	08:25	12:55	XO9301
Hotan — Urümqi	1 2 4 7	11:40	13:20	XO9908
Urümqi — Hotan	1 2 4 7	09:10	10:50	XO9907
Islamabad — Urümqi	7	11:40	16:40	XO722
Urümqi — Islamabad	7	10:50	10:10	XO721
Karamay — Urümqi	2	10:00	11:10	XO9936
Urümqi — Karamay	2	08:20	09:30	XO9935
Kashi — Urümqi	3 4 5	23:20	00:55	XO9906
	1 2 4 6 7	17:00	18:35	XO9902
	1 2 3 5 6 7	20:40	22:15	XO9904
Urümqi — Kashi	3 4 5	20:30	22:20	XO9905
	1 2 4 6 7	14:10	16:00	XO9901
	1 2 3 5 6 7	18:00	19:50	XO9903
Korla — Urümqi	3 6	14:15	15:50	XO9932
	1 5 7	15:15	16:50	XO9934
Urümqi — Korla	3 6	08:20	09:55	XO9931
	1 5 7	08:20	09:55	XO9933
Kuqa — Urümqi	3 6	12:10	15:50	XO9932
Urümqi — Kuqa	3 6	08:20	11:40	XO9931
Lanzhou — Urümqi	3 6	14:30	17:10	0WH2907
	3 7	19:40	22:20	XO9606
Urümqi — Lanzhou	3 6	11:20	13:40	WH2908
	3 7	09:15	11:30	XO9605
Moscow — Urümqi	5	22:40	10:35	XO702
Urümqi — Moscow	3	18:30	21:05	XO701
Qiemo — Urümqi	1 5 7	13:00	16:50	XO9934
Urümqi — Qiemo	1 5 7	08:20	12:10	XO9933
Shanghai — Urümqi	2 4 6	16:05	23:05	XO9512
	1 3 4 6	14:20	19:25	XO9502
Urümqi — Shanghai	4	09:15	13:25	XO9501
	1 3 6	08:25	12:45	XO9501
	2 4 6	07:55	14:45	XO9511
Shenzhen — Urümqi	4 6	16:15	22:55	XO9304
Urümqi — Shenzhen	4 6	09:05	15:10	XO9303
Tashkent — Urümqi	3	12:05	16:25	XO714
Urümqi — Tashkent	3	09:50	10:35	XO713
Xi'an — Urümqi	1	07:50	13:30	WH2915
	1	11:10	14:35	MF8901
	1	18:50	22:10	XO9604
	2	17:50	21:00	XO9382
	6	11:00	14:10	CJ6921
	7	07:10	10:45	WH2901
	1 4	19:40	23:15	XO9504
	2 5	20:25	00:25	XO9802
	3 6	07:10	10:30	WH2905
	3 6	19:05	22:25	XO9306
	3 7	18:10	21:45	XO9510
Urümqi — Xi'an	1	14:30	19:25	WH2916
	1	15:25	18:10	MF8902
	1	08:55	11:55	XO9603
	2	09:05	12:00	XO9381
	6	14:50	17:50	CJ6922
	7	11:35	14:20	WH2902
	1 4	09:35	12:50	XO9503
	2 5	09:25	12:35	XO9801
	3 6	18:10	20:50	WH2906
	3 6	09:35	12:50	XO9305
	3 7	09:25	12:35	XO9509
Xining — Urümqi	6	18:50	21:10	XO9308
Urümqi — Xining	6	08:35	10:35	XO9307
Yining — Urümqi	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:10	12:45	XO9918
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:20	12:55	XO9922
Urümqi — Yining	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:50	10:30	XO9917
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:00	10:40	XO9921

(Valid October 1994)

Flights to and from Korla

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Kuqa — Korla	3 6	12:10	13:25	XO9932
Korla — Kuqa	3 6	10:25	11:40	XO9931
Qiemo — Korla	1 5 7	13:00	14:45	XO9934
Korla — Qiemo	1 5 7	10:25	12:10	XO9933

Major Highways in Northern Xinjiang

Routes	Distance (km)	Main Stations
Burqin — Altay	110	—
Burqin — Fuyun	258	Beitun, Sarbulak
Urümqi — Atlay	778	Kuytun, Beitun, Burqin Fork
Urümqi— Bole	524	Shihezi, Usu
Urümqi — Burqin	686	Kuytun, Hoxtolgay
Urümqi — Dushanzi	252	Shawan, Anjihai
Urümqi — Karamay	389	Dushanzi Fork, Kuytun
Urümqi — Kuytun	252	Hutubi, Shihezi
Urümqi — Mori	268	Fukang, Jimsar, Qitai
Urümqi — Shihezi	151	Changji, Hutubi, Shihezi
Urümqi — Tacheng	626	Kuytun, Toli
Urümqi — Tianchi	97	Tianchi Fork
Urümqi — Yining	693	Usu, Jinghe, Huocheng
Yining — Gongliu	115	Yamat
Yining — Xinyuan	191	—

Train Schedules
Urümqi- Kuytun-Alataw Pass

515 O.	Train No. Station	516 O.
10:57	Urümqi West	20:00
11:34	Changji	19:30
12:30	Hutubi	18:40
13:55	Manas	17:18
14:17	Shihezi	17:01
17:22	Kuytun	14:53
17:46	Usu	14:18
21:13	Jinghe	11:00
22:39	Bole	09:46
23:22 ↓	Alataw Pass	09:02

O. — Ordinary passenger train

Xinjiang's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Cities/Prefectures		Open Cities / Counties
Aksu P		Aksu, Baicheng C, Kuqa C, Wensu C, Wushi C, Xayar C, Xinhe C
Bayingolin Mongolian AP		Bohu C, Hoxud C, Luntai C, Korla, Qiemo C, Ruoqiang C, Yanqi Hui AC
Bortala Mongolian AP		Bole
Changji Hui AP		Changji, Fukang C, Hutubi C, Manas C, Miquan C, Mori Kazakh AC, Qitai C
Hami P		Barkol Kazakh AC, Hami, Yiwu C
Hotan P		Hotan, Lop C, Minfeng C, Moyu C, Pishan C, Qira C, Yutian C
Ili Kazak AP	Altay P	Altay, Fuhai C, Fuyun C, Qinghe C
	Ili P	Huocheng C, Yining
	Kuytun	Kuytun
	Tacheng P	Shawan C, Tacheng
Karamay		Karamay
Kashi P		Bachu C, Kashi, Shache C, Shufu C, Shule C, Taxkorgan Tajik AC, Yecheng C, Yengisar C, Zepu C
Kizilsu Kirgiz AP		Artux
Shihezi		Shihezi
Turpan P		Shanshan C, Toksun C, Turpan
Urümqi		Urümqi

Notes: C — County AC — Autonomous County P — Prefecture AP — Autonomous Prefecture

Average Climatic Conditions in Xinjiang

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Xinjiang	Altay	Temperature (℃)	-14.7	-13.0	-2.7	8.6	17.0	21.6	21.1	19.0	14.8	8.5	-2.7	-10.4
		Rainfall (mm)	20.8	9.8	31.0	7.4	4.3	4.8	42.3	24.2	5.9	11.2	52.1	15.2
	Bole	Temperature (℃)	-13.6	-11.6	0.9	10.7	17.7	24.1	23.0	21.8	17.2	8.2	-1.3	-8.2
		Rainfall (mm)	6.0	0.8	7.9	38.5	42.9	10.6	20.3	23.7	12.5	30.9	6.6	6.9
	Changji	Temperature (℃)	-13.7	-11.7	0.9	11.1	18.9	25.1	25.0	24.3	18.7	10.0	-0.9	-8.5
		Rainfall (mm)	17.7	4.7	20.7	27.0	10.6	30.3	21.7	3.3	14.8	11.4	25.3	5.7
	Hami	Temperature (℃)	-12.2	-5.8	4.5	13.2	20.2	25.2	27.2	25.9	19.1	9.9	-0.6	-9.0
		Rainfall (mm)	1.7	1.1	1.0	2.6	2.8	6.4	5.9	5.0	3.0	2.1	1.6	1.6
	Karamay	Temperature (℃)	-11.5	-9.9	2.8	12.8	20.6	28.6	26.8	25.8	20.7	11.1	-0.2	-7.5
		Rainfall (mm)	2.2	1.9	8.3	8.4	51.1	1.0	61.5	15.3	16.7	6.9	10.6	4.3
	Shihezi	Temperature (℃)	-13.7	-11.9	1.8	11.8	19.1	25.5	25.2	23.7	18.5	9.5	-0.5	-8.2
		Rainfall (mm)	27.3	5.6	12.8	25.5	31.3	19.6	21.6	4.4	1.5	14.8	40.3	5.6
	Tacheng	Temperature (℃)	-10.0	-8.5	0.5	9.9	17.3	22.9	21.6	20.8	17.4	8.8	-1.3	-6.1
		Rainfall (mm)	25.2	10.8	41.4	12.5	32.0	19.3	82.7	23.1	0.4	45.0	53.5	20.7
	Turpan	Temperature (℃)	-9.5	-2.1	9.3	18.9	25.7	31.0	32.7	30.4	23.3	12.6	1.8	-7.2
		Rainfall (mm)	1.5	0.3	1.4	0.4	0.5	3.3	2.3	3.0	1.0	1.1	0.4	1.4
	Urümqi	Temperature (℃)	-15.2	-12.2	0.7	10.8	18.9	23.4	25.7	23.8	17.4	8.2	-2.6	-12.0
		Rainfall (mm)	5.6	4.0	18.8	22.6	25.1	29.1	16.4	18.9	14.2	17.2	15.2	7.4
	Yining	Temperature (℃)	-8.8	-5.9	3.9	12.2	17.8	23.5	22.5	22.1	18.6	9.5	3.1	-1.9
		Rainfall (mm)	23.0	9.1	37.4	22.8	21.2	5.6	35.7	21.1	4.1	46.1	49.1	7.8

Train Schedules Lanzhou – Turpan – Urümqi

243 F.T.	143 F.T.	113/112 F.T.	97 Exp.	69 Exp.	53/52 Exp.	Train No. / Station	54/51 Exp.	70 Exp.	98 Exp.	114/111 F.T.	144 F.T.	244 F.T.
	From Xi'an	From Chengdu	From Zhengzhou	From Beijing	From Shanghai		To Shanghai	To Beijing	To Zhengzhou	To Chengdu	To Xi'an	
11:35	13:16	00:23	19:22	02:31	23:53	**Lanzhou**	10:14	08:18	12:50	08:51	17:36	15:27
14:13	15:57	02:55	21:41	04:55	02:10	**Yongdeng**	08:03	06:06	10:37	06:17	15:13	12:46
15:52	17:18	04:40	23:02	06:16	03:31	**Dachaigou**	06:55	04:53	09:32	04:09	14:06	11:30
19:39	21:08	08:44	02:56	10:09	07:10	**Wuwei**	02:51	00:44	05:31	23:44	10:01	06:34
00:19	01:52	13:02	07:19	14:26	11:31	**Shandan**	22:33	20:43	01:25	19:29	05:15	00:50
01:37	03:03	14:20	08:26	15:33	12:40	**Zhangye**	21:25	19:37	00:18	18:20	04:05	23:07
05:40	07:22	18:16	12:16	19:13	16:30	**Jiuquan**	17:15	15:39	20:31	13:55	23:44	19:10
06:25	08:06	19:00	12:50	19:53	17:02	**Jiayuguan**	16:33	15:05	19:58	13:21	23:11	18:30
07:19	09:04	20:01	13:43	20:45	17:55	**Yumen**	15:55	14:26	19:17	12:34	22:26	17:43
09:55	11:46	22:29	16:29	23:14	20:36	**Shulehe**	13:27	11:56	16:37	09:45	19:26	14:44
12:45	14:49	01:07	19:08	01:58	23:16	**Liuyuan**	10:48	09:09	14:05	07:08	16:25	11:33
18:35	20:22	07:34	23:15	07:10	04:14	**Hami**	04:59	03:35	08:24	01:01	10:11	04:04
00:50	02:17	13:02	05:07	12:22	09:32	**Shanshan**	22:03	22:26	03:01	19:31	04:57	21:32
03:58	05:18	15:26	07:37	14:55	12:10	**Turpan**	21:29	19:51	00:30	16:54	02:13	18:56
07:19	—	18:43	10:23	17:41	14:56	**Urümqi**	18:30	16:49	21:31	12:59	—	15:25
	09:13					**Xinyuan**					22:06	
	12:32					**Balguntay**					18:34	
	14:05					**Hejing**					17:15	
	15:44					**Korla**					15:10	

N.B. — Trains No. 143 and 144 depart on alternate days.

Exp. — Express F.T. — Fast through passenger train

NEWS

Cultural Tour of Taishan

Mount Taishan, called by the UN "one of the natural and cultural heritages of the world", will be the site of a cultural tour from September 1 to 10. Located in Tai'an City in the centre of Shandong Province, Taishan is a well-known scenic spot and Taoist mountain in China. The cultural tour will include activities such as traditional wedding performances, an exhibition of local relics, concerts and a trade fair.

Autumn Rafting Tour

Rafting enthusiasts planning a trip to China this autumn might want to consider a month-long rafting excursion down the Yellow River. Lasting from September 19 to October 18, the tour will start out in Shanxi Province's Hukou Waterfall, located in Jixian County, and will travel for the entire 65 kilometres of the Yellow River that runs through Shanxi.

New Shipping Service

The China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO) has recently set up a subsidiary branch in Beijing called COSCO International Travel. The purpose of the new agency is to handle incoming international shipping passengers and seamen and provide tour services for Chinese people going abroad by sea.

Confucius Festival Set for Qufu

This September 26 will mark the 2,545th anniversary of the birth of Confucius, China's most famous philosopher. To commemorate the man and his deeds, his hometown of Qufu in Shandong Province is holding its 5th annual International Confucian Culture Festival from September 26 to October 10. A huge number of events have been planned for the festival and include a grand opening ceremony on the 26th, an ancient Chinese music and dance performance on the 28th, cultural and art exhibits related to Confucius, tourist activities intended to imitate life in Confucius' time, an international seminar on Confucianism, as well as trade, science and technology exchanges and exhibitions.

Hangzhou Gets New Museum

The city of Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province has recently built a museum dedicated to exhibiting China's different styles of pagodas. The museum is laid out like a garden and covers some six hectares of land. It is divided into five sections and has 10:1 scale models of some of the finest pagodas in the country from the Tang, Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties.

Old Town in Shaanxi

For people who enjoy visiting ancient towns, a trip to Tongguan in Shaanxi Province might prove rewarding. Listed as one of the province's 10 major projects for tourist development, the town's main attraction is its unique city walls, which were built along mountains and across rivers, and are said to be on a par with the Great Wall. Tongguan is located east of Xi'an near the border with Henan and Shanxi provinces, and at a point where the Yellow, Weihe and Luohe rivers converge.

More Flights for Shanghai

In preparation for the busy summer and autumn tourist season, the coastal city of Shanghai has stepped up its number of domestic and international flights. Extra flights are to be added to destinations such as Los Angeles, Bangkok, Singapore, Seoul and the Japanese cities of Osaka and Fukuoka. Domestically, additional flights will be scheduled to and from Ningbo, Nanchang, Qingdao and Guilin.

Bird Reserve Open in Jilin

The Xianghai Nature Reserve, located in Tongyu County in the most northern corner of Jilin Province, has recently opened to tourists. Home to 245 varieties of birds including red-crowned cranes, Siberian white cranes and swans, Xianghai has been designated an A-class nature reserve of international significance by the World Wide Fund for Nature, and has also been listed as an internationally important wetland. Of the estimated 1,300 red-crowned cranes in the world, the majority live in northeast China. In addition to the many types of birds, there are also over 30 species of animals living in the reserve, such as deer, Mongolian gazelles, foxes and wolves. To receive visitors, the Tongyu County Tourism Administration has been set up and can be contacted for tours at 001-861-831-3850. As the reserve is situated near the border of Inner Mongolia, tourists can also enjoy Mongolian folk performances and Mongolian food. The best seasons for bird-watching are spring and autumn.

New Flights for Air China

Air China, one of the country's major airlines, has opened seven new domestic and international routes. The international flights are between Beijing and Copenhagen (Denmark), Beijing and Fukuoka (Japan) via Shanghai, Beijing and Jakarta (Indonesia) and Shanghai and Frankfurt (Germany). Domestically, Air China has added three new routes, one from Beijing to Shenyang, another from Beijing to Chengdu and the third from Shanghai to Guangzhou.

Children's Art Festival in Beijing

Beijing will be playing host to the country's first International Children's Festival starting on September 1. The Culture Ministry has organized the 10-day event and has invited art troupes from 19 countries and regions around the globe. During the festival, Beijing's theatres, public parks and squares will be holding folk performances by the children which will include singing, dancing, acrobatics, plays and kungfu. There will also be exhibitions of paintings, photographs and calligraphic works done by children from various countries.

Sanya Airport to Open

The southern city of Sanya in Hainan Province is scheduled to begin operation on July 1. The new international airport is located 15 kilometres from Sanya and boasts some of the most advanced equipment in the world.

Xinjiang Improves Transportation

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has made great strides in improving both land and air transport in recent years. Two new railway lines are under construction and should be completed soon. One project is the double-tracking of the Lanzhou-Ürümqi line, which runs for 1,622 kilometres, and the other is the Northern Xinjiang Railway which will link up China with Central Asia.

Nine new highways have also been completed and were put into operation last year, and work has begun on the building and renovation of 12 airports in the region. In addition, Xinjiang Airlines plans to start five new domestic and international routes this year. The domestic flights will run from Ürümqi to Zhengzhou to Qingdao, and from Ürümqi to Kunming via Chengdu. Internationally, there will be an Ürümqi to Islamabad (Pakistan) flight, a Tianjin-Ürümqi-Moscow route and a chartered flight between Ürümqi and Hong Kong.

BUSINESS TIPS

-The northern city of Changchun in Jilin Province has been approved by the State Council as a special zone
-Located just outside Hebei Province's capital of Shijiazhuang, the city of Gaocheng has recently open 32 projects for foreign investment and co-operation.

Tianjin Building New Zone

The city of Tianjin is planning to create a new economic zone centred round Tianjin Port, which is under construction. Besides the port itself, the new zone will also include a free-trade area and an economic and technical development area. The zone will have an export-oriented economy that will focus on commerce, finance, tourism and the metallurgy and chemical industries. It is hoped that the new zone's GDP and gross export value will make up 40 per cent of the city's total in the coming decade.

More Banks in Guangdong

Ten of the world's largest international banks will be establishing branches this year in Guangdong Province in the four cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shantou. At present, Guangzhou lags behind Shanghai and Shenzhen in its number of overseas bank branches, thus this move is intended to improve conditions there for speedier financial development.

Shandong's Yanzhou Invites Investment

The city of Yanzhou in Shandong Province has a number of major projects currently underway that are in need of foreign and domestic investment. Some of the projects are: the Xinji Coal Mine, which is expected to have an 80-year life span and an annual extraction capacity of 600,000 tons; the Yanzhou Thermal Power Plant, located in the Yanzhou Industrial and Trade Zone; the Zishan Cement Plant, which is developing a quick cement solidifier; the Yanzhou Huangtun Steel Industrial Area, which will be divided into six development zones and will cover 16 square kilometres; the Yanzhou Carpet Factory, whose products already sell well in England, North America, Japan and Hong Kong; the Yanzhou Fuhe Pedestrian Shopping Street in downtown Yanzhou, and the Yanzhou Glassworks, which is a producer for the Ministry of Light Industry.

Shanghai Gets Trade Point

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is sponsoring China's first Trade Point in the city of Shanghai. A Trade Point is a place where trade organizations such as chambers of commerce, banks, customs agents and transport companies are housed under one roof, thus simplifying trading procedures. At present there are 35 Trade Points throughout the world which are linked in a network, and by this October there are expected to be as many as 60. Chinese companies in Shanghai will benefit greatly once the Trade Point, located on the Bund, is in operation.

Hainan Luring Foreign Investors

Foreigners are being further encouraged to invest in Hainan Province through a series of initiatives aimed at liberalizing the island's investment environment. Plans include setting up three overseas banks, two overseas insurance companies and two foreign investment corporations. Foreign business people will be encouraged to run commerical firms, department stores, chain stores and supermarkets, and all kinds of co-operative arrangements with Chinese companies will be welcomed. In addition, Hainan is opening up 100 industrial renovation projects to foreign investment and another 100 projects are being proposed which relate to new product development. Other measures include allowing foreign-funded enterprises to buy shares in domestic companies that do import-export trade, and allowing foreign investment in communications, transport, airport construction and aviation services.

Trade Fair in Beijing

From July 20-24, Beijing will be hosting a trade fair on light industrial products and electrical appliances. About 150 Chinese and overseas companies will be at the fair, which will be held at the China World Trade Centre, displaying a wide variety of household appliances and electronic goods.

Projects Open to Foreigners in Shandong

The Zaozhuang New and High-tech Industrial Development Zone in Shandong Province's southern city of Zaozhuang has opened up a number of projects to various types of foreign investment and co-operative arrangements. In industry, the projects cover fields such as chemicals, engineering, construction, energy and others. In addition, foreign investment is welcome in the areas of tourism, real estate, restaurants and recreation. The zone is located in the Xuecheng District of Zaozhuang at 9 Liaohe Road.

Wenzhou Seeking Investment

Zhejiang Province's southern coastal city of Wenzhou has recently announced a number of industries that are seeking investment. All the industries are located within the Wenzhou Economic and Technical Development Zone and include the following: the manufacture of machinery and electronic equipment that uses advanced technology, equipment for the chemical, medical and communications industries, various types of building materials, non-ferrous metals processing, export-oriented light industrial products and textiles, and the development of real estate and urban infrastructure. Various types of investment and co-operative ventures are welcome.

Zhenjiang Opens 300 Projects

The city of Zhenjiang in Jiangsu Province has opened up 300 projects for foreign economic and technical co-operation, 88 of which are seeking overseas funds worth US$3 million each. Another 14 will need a combined investment of US$10 million. The projects cover a wide range of fields such as machinery, electronics, metallurgy, chemicals, medicine, light industries, textiles, food processing, infrastructure, transportation, tourism, agriculture and real estate.

Bike Show in Shanghai

The city of Shanghai will be the location for the fifth China International Bicycle Exhibition, also known as the '94 China Cycle Show. The show will be held from September 23-26 in the Shanghai International Exhibition Centre. Business people from all over the world are invited to attend. For details, contact the Shanghai International Exhibition Corporation. Tel: 021-5456707 Fax: (021) 5455124

Companies in Anhui Seeking Funds

At the end of April of this year the province of Anhui held an exhibition to announce the listing of 247 projects which are now open to both foreign and domestic investment. Of the total US$4.8 billion needed, it is expected that $2.2 billion will come from overseas investors. The companies seeking investment are located in cities and towns all over the province, such as the capital of Hefei, Wuhu, Chaohu, Bengbu, Tongling, Huangshan and others. The projects include road construction, coal mines, power plants, paper mills, flour mills, cement factories, the manufacturing of chemicals, automobiles, minibuses, engines, tyres, soap, cereals, steel, silk, beer, radios, glass, pharmaceuticals and much more.

Beer City Leasing Land

A meeting was held in Singapore this April to invite participation in Qingdao's International Beer City, expected to be the largest of its kind in Asia when completed. The main forms of co-operation available in the Beer City are the leasing of land, land development and the purchasing of property. Known world-wide for its beer of the same name, Qingdao is located on the coast of Shangdong Province and acts as the economic and political hub of Shandong.

Hotel Package in Lhasa

The Holiday Inn Lhasa has a special package for business people coming to the city this year. Called "94 Through 94", the package includes one day's deluxe accommodations, all meals, free use of conference facilities, tea and coffee service twice a day and a 20% discount at the hotel's business centre, all for US$94. The hotel has recently upgraded facilities and services, and has also installed Star TV in all 468 rooms.

(Continued from page 73)

A Collector of Tibetan Folk Art

After having looked at his collection and talked with Ye, I began to see why he is so obsessed with Tibet and his collection, and why he is able to produce such fine paintings. The reason is that behind his collection is the vast expanse of fertile soil that is Tibetan culture, on which he lives and works. Agreeing with this view, he showed me a book he had written called *The Art of Tibetan Masks*, a thick book with nearly 300 pictures. The book makes a fairly comprehensive study of Tibetan masks used in dramatic performances and religious ceremonies. The masks are divided into two large categories — folk and religious. Experts agree that the book has filled a gap in the study of traditional Tibetan art.

The evening passed quickly. Sitting in the squalid room, face to face with "The Eccentric of the Plateau", I felt as if time and space had lengthened. As my vision broadened, I began to see that there are indeed riches in poverty, happiness in solitude and a down-to-earth approach to even the wildest fantasy. Ye Xingsheng's attitude to life helped me to understand that if a man is firm in his resolve and is ready to face hardships, he can even catch up with the stars and the sun.

Translated by Tang Bowen

NEXT ISSUE

• A Taibai Mountain Travel Diary

• A Journey Along the Heilongjiang River

• Two New Holiday Destinations: Guangdong's Shangchuan and Xiachuan Islands

In our next issue we cover a wide variety of topics and locations — from holiday resorts on two islands in the far south to a river journey along the Russian border. We travel to majestic Taibai Mountain in Shaanxi, vast Gaoyou Lake in Jiangsu and take you around the little-explored area of northeastern Fujian. One of our reporters also attends an unusual and important religious event in Tibet: the inauguration ceremony of the stupa built in honour of the late 10th Panchen Lama, whose gilded body has been waiting for over four years to be formally laid to rest.

• The Inauguration of Tibet's Grandest Stupa — The 10th Panchen Lama's Final Resting Place

• The Scenery and Customs Around Jiangsu's Gaoyou Lake

Major Hotels in Northern Xinjiang

Altay

Biancheng Hotel
邊城賓館
4 Jiefang Road, Altay, Xinjiang
Tel: 22925
GM: Fu Guoyao
Facilities: Restaurants, coffee shop, ballroom, karaoke, beauty salon

Bole

Ebinur Lake Hotel
艾比湖賓館
2 Minzhu Road, Bole, Xinjiang
Tel: 22076
GM: Chen Shide
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, bar, ballroom, beauty salon, business centre

Changji

Changji Prefecture Hotel
昌吉州賓館
Yan'an Road North, Changji, Xinjiang 831100
Tel: (0994) 342153, 342034
GM: Jie Jianxin
Facilities: Restaurants, amusement centre, shopping arcade

Fukang

Tianchi Hotel
天池賓館
Tianchi Scenic Area, Fukang, Xinjiang 831500
Tel: 222334
Located in the centre of the Heavenly Lake area
Villas and yurts accommodating about 100 guests
Facilities: Restaurants, teahouse, boat cruises

Karamay

Taiyangcheng Hotel
太陽城賓館
28 Youjiang Road, Karamay, Xinjiang
Tel: 22454, 883075
GM: Zhu Rongping
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Restaurants, ballroom, conference rooms

Urümqi

Baodi Hotel
寶地賓館
3 Kalamay Road East, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: 443071, 414068 Fax: (0991) 443071
GM: Wang Songlin
Opened July 1988
215 beds
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, ballroom, bar, karaoke, beauty salon, shopping arcade

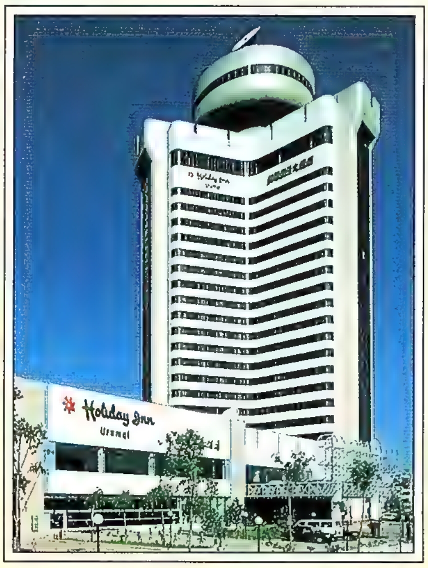
Bianjiang Hotel
邊疆賓館
32 Yan'an Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001
Tel: (0991) 262981, 262982-660/661
GM: Yang Yongxue
1,040 beds
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, karaoke, ballroom, clinic, shopping arcade

Bogeda (Bogal) Hotel
博格達賓館
10 Guangming Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 223910 Fax: 215769
GM: Li Chenglin
146 rooms
Located 20 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, banquet hall, bar, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Dongfeng Hotel
東風賓館

36 Beijing Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830011
Tel: 338027 Fax: 330300
Opened 1986
120 rooms and suites
Located 4 km from airport
Facilities: Restaurants offering Sichuan, Beijing, Guangdong and Muslim dishes, banquet hall, conference rooms, bar, shopping arcade, multi-function room

Holiday Inn Urümqi
新疆假日大酒店

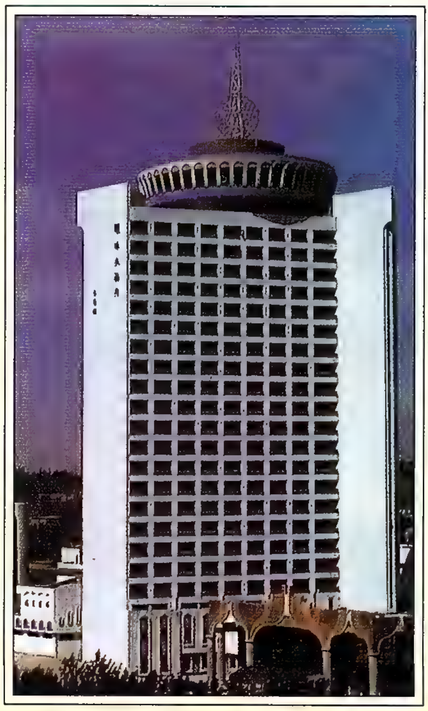


168 Xinhua Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 218788 Telex: 79161 XIGHP CN
Fax: (0991) 217422
GM: Shi Taile
Opened 8 May 1993
383 rooms and suites
Located in the heart of the city, 20 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference rooms, business centre, bar, disco, gym, steambath, sauna, massage, hot and cold jacuzzi, billiard room, clinic, karaoke, facilities for the handicapped

Hongshan Hotel
紅山賓館
108 Xinhua Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 224232
GM: Cui Shouliang
Opened 1971
143 rooms
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, bar, coffee shop, cafe, karaoke, beauty salon, multi-function room, massage

Hotel of Urümqi Mansion
烏魯木齊大廈賓館
131 Renmin Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 222252 Fax: 216078
GM: Dong Faxun
Opened February 1992
168 rooms
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, beauty salon

Hotel of the World Plaza
環球大酒店



2 Beijing Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830011
Tel: 336300, 336340
Fax: 336399, 339007
Opened August 1992
398 rooms and suites
Located 15 km from airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, teahouse, cafe, bar, dance hall, karaoke, disco, beauty salon, clinic, sauna, gym, billiard room, indoor swimming pool, shopping arcade, babysitting service

Huangjin Hotel
黃金賓館
6 Youhao Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: 416071 Fax: 442362
GM: He Lingtai
Opened 1987
110 rooms
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, beauty salon, shopping arcade

International Department House
國際公寓
Henan Road West, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830011
Tel: 338471
GM: Zhao Huanwen
Opened 18 May 1993
127 rooms and suites
Located 7 km from airport, 16 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, cafe, teahouse, billiard room, karaoke, gym

Islam Grand Hotel
伊斯蘭大飯店
22 Zhongshan Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 217931 Fax: 211513
GM: Zhao Shukun
77 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, bar, karaoke, shopping arcade, nightclub

Jianguo Hotel
建國飯店

26 Jianguo Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 227855
GM: Ou Rong
120 rooms and suites
Facilities: Restaurants offering Sichuan, Guangdong, Shandong and Xinjiang dishes, conference room, ballroom, beauty salon, shopping arcade, nightclub

Kunlun Hotel
昆侖賓館
38 Youhao Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: 440411 Telex: 79131 KLHTL CN
GM: An Jinming
Opened 1959
428 rooms and suites
Located 16 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, Muslim banquet rooms, conference rooms, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, ballroom, shopping arcade

Laiyuan Hotel
徠遠賓館
3 Jianshe Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 228368 Fax: 225109
GM: Wang Bao Guo
120 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, bar, karaoke, beauty salon, gym, clinic, shopping arcade

Maliyan Hotel
瑪麗艷賓館
57 Zhongshan Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 214881 Fax: 212220
GM: Xi Dongchang
Opened 1993
72 rooms and suites
Located downtown
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, conference rooms, multi-function room, ballroom, karaoke

Overseas Chinese Hotel
華僑賓館
51 Xinhua Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001
Tel: (0991) 260793, 260845, 260846
Telex: 79164 BOOTH CN
Fax: (0991) 260622
GM: Song Qipei
280 rooms
East Building opened September 1955, South Building September 1985
Located 27 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, self-service Muslim restaurant, conference rooms, business centre, music hall, bar, karaoke, beauty salon, clinic

Peafowl Mansion
孔雀大廈
71 Youhao Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: 442988
GM: Jia Meihua
102 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, clinic

Tianshan Mansion
天山大廈
14 Dongfeng Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 222481
GM: Usimen Alim
Opened 1954
180 rooms
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference rooms, dance hall, bar, shopping arcade

Trade Union Mansion
工會大廈
8 Dongfeng Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 226083, 226102
GM: Yang Guoke
60 rooms
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, ballroom, karaoke, shopping arcade

Yingbin Hotel
迎賓館

60 Yanan Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001
Tel: 261060
GM: Cao Kewen
Opened 1956
135 rooms and suites
Located 25 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, meeting rooms, multi-function rooms

Yili Grand Hotel
伊犁大酒店
80 Changjiang Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: 553208
GM: Li Wei
Opened February 1993
118 rooms
Located 20 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants offering Sichuan, Guangdong and Muslim dishes, conference rooms, multi-function room, dance hall, karaoke

Zhunge'er (Junggar) Hotel
准噶爾賓館

5 Beijing Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830011
Tel: 413383 Fax: 443242
GM: Yang Songjin
Opened 1986
77 rooms and suites
Located 10 km from airport, 15 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, coffee shop, dance hall, shopping arcade

Yining

Yining Flower City Hotel
伊寧花城賓館
Alley 7, Ahemaitijiang Street, Yining, Xinjiang
Tel: 22911 Ext. 214

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China Jialing Industry Co., Ltd. (Group) is the biggest motorcycle manufacturer in China and also an export-based enterprise for state mechanical electrical products, and is authorized to do both import and export business.

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Now the corporation has an annual capacity of more than 500,000 series of motorcycles, 600,000 sets of key engine parts with a displacement from 70cm^3 to 125cm^3, and 15,000,000 rounds of plastic case shotgun cartridges. Our economic indexes are ranked first among similar domestic trade. In 1990, the corporation was assessed as a National First Grade Enterprise. In recent years it has maintained its title of one of China's 500 large-scale enterprises and enjoys a good reputation both in domestic and foreign markets.

We welcome all friends from home and abroad to write, telephone or come to visit our corporation to undertake co-operative production, joint ventures, compensation trade and processing and assembling according to materials and samples supplied.

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(A) My general impression of issue No.__________of China Tourism:

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Design	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pictures	☐	☐	☐	☐
Text	☐	☐	☐	☐

(B) Which pictures did you like or dislike most?
(Please quote issue, pages or picture captions)

____

Reasons ____________________

____

(C) Which articles did you find the most or least interesting?
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Reasons ____________________

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(D) Have you any suggestions which will help us to improve our magazine?

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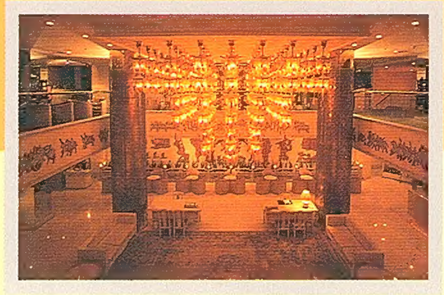

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